

THE  
HISTOR Y  
OF THE  
TALES OF THE FAIRIES,  
(From the *FRENCH*)  
CONTAINING

- I. The Tale of GRACIOSA and Prince PERCINET; shewing the Cruelty of a proud Mother-in-law, to an innocent dutiful Virgin.
- II. The BLUE BIRD and FLORINA; shewing the Happiness of being good-natured in both Sexes.
- III. Prince AVENANT, and the Beauty with Locks of Gold; shewing what Difficulties and Dangers Love will surmount.
- IV. The King of the PEACOCKS, and the Princess ROSETTA; shewing the Vanity of Covetousness, Pride, and Envy.
- V. Prince NONPAREIL, and the Princess BRILLIANT; wherein is shewn, that outward Beauty is not the only Object Love delights to dwell in.
- VI. The ORANGE-TREE, and its beloved BEE; shewing the Happiness of those Lovers who shall find Constancy in Perfection.

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Dedicated to the LADIES of Great Britain.

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A NEW EDITION.

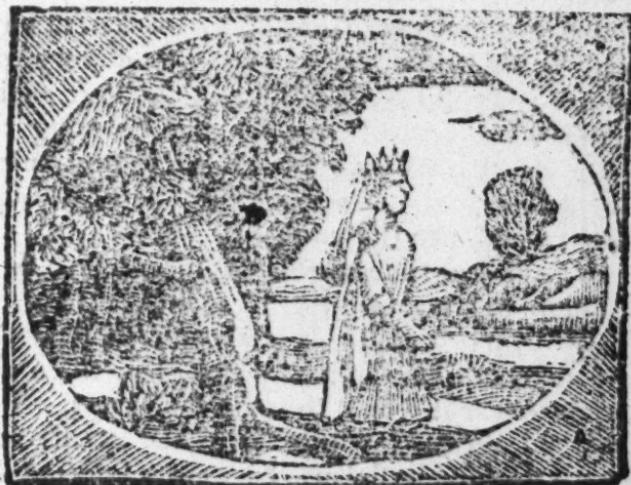
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THE  
HISTORY  
OF THE  
*TALES OF THE FAIRIES.*



TALE I.

*Of the Princess Graciosa and Prince Percinet.*

THE Empire of the Fairies had not flourished many centuries, but there reigned in the eastern countries a king and queen, with so much clemency and justice, that they had gained the hearts of all their subjects. They had indeed no

## THE HISTORY OF THE

male issue to leave the crown to, but were bless'd with a daughter perfectly made beautiful by nature, not art. This accomplish'd princess, for the sweetness of her disposition, was called Graciosa. As she grew up, she became her mother's darling, and consequently wanted nothing an indulgent parent could give her; insomuch that her garb was inestimable, and her attendants becoming one of the greatest princesses in the world.

Amongst the rest of the ladies that made up her father's court, was the dutchess of Grognon, extreme rich, but monstrous ugly, red haire, blear eyed, hump backed, bandy legged, and every way deform'd both in body and soul; she bore an inveterate malice to Graciosa, and knowing the lustre of her merits would become more transparent by her ugly appearance at court, through envy retired into the country.

In process of time when fortune had run a series of mirth and tranquillity, it happened that the queen sickened and died; whose death afflicted Graciosa and her father so violently, there was reason to fear it would shorten their days. The king had retired a whole year, till at last, persuaded by his physicians, he went a hunting for the benefit of his health.—Upon the borders of his forest he came within sight of a stately castle, and the weather being extreme hot, it obliged him to leave the chace, and ride there to refresh himself.

The dutchess of Grognon, (whose castle it was) went to wait upon his majesty and conduct him in. They were no sooner entered but the cunning dutchess familiarly told his majesty, that the coolest retirement in her castle was a spacious arched

arched vault, which she desired him to visit. The king agreed, where to his surprize, he beheld, as he thought, above an hundred pipes of wine, placed very orderly. Are these for your own use, madam? said he. For none but myself and my family, replied she. Will your majesty be pleased to take a glass of what wine you like best among all these? Troth, said the king, if I taste any, it shall be champaign.

Immediately Grognon struck with a little silver hammer the head of a pipe, and as soon came out a million of guineas. How comes this? said she, laughing, then she struck another pipe, and out flew several bushels of louisd'ors. Hey day, cried she, in a surprize, what means all this? then she knocked her little hammer against the head of a third pipe, and there was as many pearls, diamonds, and precious stones flung out as would cover the floor. The cunning dutchess, to amuse the king, cried out in a passion that she was cheated of her wines by some villains, who had in the room thereof, only left her those foolish baubles, and seemed to lament bitterly. What do you call these baubles? said the king. Why woman, they are of more value than ten of the richest cities in the world. Well, sir, said she I own it, and must confess, there is not one pipe here but what is full of gold and precious jewels, and they are all at your majesty's disposal, provided you'll consent to marry me, and make me as much queen and mistress of your daughter as her mother was. The covetous king, neglectful of his daughter's welfare, cried a match! and gave her his hand upon it; whereat she presented him with the key of her wealth, and so for that time parted.

The king no sooner returned to court, but Graciosa received him with joy and embracing him cried, What sport, my dear father? Sport, child, said he, why I have taken a live pigeon, commit it then to my care, replied she, and I will make much of it. No, no, said the king, to tell you the truth, 'tis the dutchess of Grognon whom I have met with, and taken to wife. Here Graciosa cried out to heaven, and in a rage said, the dutchess was ten thousand times more like an owl than a pigeon.—Peace, said the king, it's my pleasure it should be so, therefore prepare to receive her with the same duty you paid to the late queen your mother.

The obedient but disconsolate princess retired to her chamber, in order to obey his command; and dress'd herself all in green, shaded with gold, her hair hanging in curls loose on her shoulders; on her head was a crown of jessamine and roses, so that Venus never appeared more beautiful.

All this time Grognon was striving to wash the Ethiopian white, by adorning herself with all the sumptuous ornaments she could procure; and to hide her deformity, made use of a raised shoe, glass eye, holsters for her back and breast, &c. Her hagg'd cheeks and thin jaws she plastered white, and vainly endeavoured to hide the redness of her hair with a black lead comb.

Whilst the king was making ready, Graciosa retired to a shady grove, to ease her breast with more freedom; but whilst she was bemoaning herself, she saw a page coming to her cloathed in green silk, with white feathers in his cap. As soon as he approached her, he laid one knee to the ground, and with a profound reverence, said, madam,

madam, the king your father waits your presence. Graciosa not knowing the page, wonder'd at his beauty, and supposing him to be one of Grognon's retinue, he undeceived her, and said, though he had kept himself unknown, yet he was her slave, and would never belong to any body else. Therefore, let not your highness be troubled, said he, for my name is Percinet, a prince of wealth, who to prevent the misfortunes you may fall under by your father's marriage, and make you happy hereafter, am now and then, by virtue of the gift of fairyism, rendered invisible. However, I have always your company, my heart is entirely yours, and I will for ever wait upon you for your welfare. The princess recovering herself from her surprize, cried out, and is it you, lovely Percinet, whom I have so long desired to see? you transport me in offering your friendship; take me into your care, and let Grognon do her worst. She had no sooner said this, but Percinet, who had provided a sumptuous horse for his beautiful mistress, seated her on the saddle, whilst she suffered him to lead her to her father, and have the felicity of seeing his mistress all the while.

Thus the king, princess, and all the nobility, met Grognon on the road; but alas! the beast she rode upon was more like a cart-horse, than a nag for a queen; so that the eyes of all were only upon the beautiful princess, and her pretty page in green, which made the ill-natur'd Grognon look as sour as if she had eaten a cart-load of crabs.

The king took no notice of her resentment, his head running more on wealth than any thing else;

else; but when Grognon came nearer and saw Graciosa thus glittering, and so stately mounted, snuffing up her nose, she broke silence, and said, what thail that puls have a better steed than I? let me rather return to my castle than be thus served.

The king then ordered Graciosa to dismount, and offer Grognon her horse, which was done accordingly; but Grognon when mounted on the palfrey, was never the more minded. Then forsooth, the green page must lead her horse; and so the picture of ill looks rode like a pedlar's bundle till she came to court: but alas! she was no sooner there, but the noble steed broke loose, and ran away, dragging her with one foot in the stirrup, through dirt and mire, till she looked like a cinder wench; but she was overtaken at last, and taken up in such a bloody, dirty pickle, with her head bruised, and a broken arm, that never was any woman in such a condition.

Thus they picked up the king's broken pieces of earthen ware, and carried her to his palace, where she was put to bed, and the surgeons sent for; but notwithstanding her bruises, she stormed and railed like a bulinggate, and swore it was one of Graciosa's tricks to pick out such an unruy judge only to murder her; and sent word that if the king did not do her justice, she would return home.

The avaricious king, for fear of losing the wealth, went and flung himself at her wretched feet, and told her she should be at her disposal to be punished as she pleased; and accordingly ordered the trembling princess to be delivered immediately to her

Graciosa

Graciosa no sooner entered Grognon's apartment, but four hags seized and stript her to the alabaster skin. Flea her! flea her! (cried cruel Grognon) till none of that white skin she is so proud of, is left. Now, thought Graciosa, I could wish with all my soul, my pretty page was here, were it not to see my nakedness exposed. So she submitted to their merciless scourging with rods, as they thought, till they were weary, but the princess had her wish, for Percinet had cast a mist before their eyes, and made them use feathers for rods; so that when they were sufficiently tired they flung on her garments and left her.

The princess retired to her chamber, and feigning an indisposition, took to her bed, at which time Percinet appeared in a corner of the room, and out of respect, kept himself at a distance. The princess soon saw him, and gave him thanks for a kindness, which she said, should ever render him dear to her. She conjured him to be alway ready to protect her, till she was in a condition to give him what he so much wished and desired: But withal desired him out of decency to retire at that time. He gladly replied, he would punctually obey her orders, and increase the respect he had for so sweet a mistress; and then withdrew.

Now Grognon supposing she had revenged herself sufficiently, mended rather sooner than could be expected; so that in a little time she was married to the king in great pomp. At the same time her picture was drawn, and exposed, a tournament proclaimed, and six bold knights were to maintain her the greatest beauty in the universe. At every fight the ugly queen was present, and thought

thought the eyes of all the beholders were upon her, when alas! they were fixed upon the matchless Graciosa, who stood behind her.

When the tournament was thought to be over, a young knight appeared with a box enamelled with diamonds in his hand, and with a loud voice declared Grognon to be the ugliest piece of nature in the world; and running against the six knights, unhors'd them and gain'd the victory. Then Percinet exposed the picture of Graciosa in his diamond box, at which sight, every one knew it to be hers; and having made obeisance to Graciosa, he rode away without giving any account of himself.

Had you seen how Grognon looked at this affront, you would have thought she would have burst with envy. The pride of her heart was so great, that stamping her feet in a rage, she turned to Graciosa, and said, dispute with me the prize of beauty! hah! if I die, I'll be revenged. Ah, madam, cried the princess, I am innocent, and own you to be the most excellent beauty. No, no, Miss Highty-Tighty, said Grognon, interrupting her, it shall be my turn next, and I'll be even with you.

The king was told what danger the princess was in, but was deaf to any redress; and so the cruel queen, when night came, forced Graciosa into a coach, which in a few days, left her in a forest three hundred miles distant, full of beasts of prey, as bears, tygers, wolves, &c.

The heart of this tender princess was ready to break in her solitude. She wept, she sigh'd, and spent her time in fruitless wanderings, amongst exquisite briars and thorns, which penetrating her tender

tender skin, made the blood trickle from her delicate limbs.

At last, overcome with grief, she fell down, and to herself, called on Percinet with a deep sigh, when immediately he appeared, when she arose and sat by him in a little chariot drawn by two swift-footed harts, who ran like the wind. As they passed along, the prince shewed her a thousand delicacies; as shepherds and lovely shepherdesses, sporting in the downs; young swains courting their mistresses; and a world of amours and other pretty fancies, extremely pleasing.

The swift coursers by this time had reached the palace of Fairy-Land; and here it was that the soul of Graciosa was ravished with the most melodious music. The queen and her daughters embraced her, and led her into a stately room, surrounded with chrystal walls; here the tables were spread, and nothing that could be thought rich or delicate was wanting. The princess fed with a good stomach, and replenished herself chearfully; but the more, with the thoughts of finding Percinet in a place where she might have expected to lose her life by savage beasts.

When dinner was ended, Percinet conducted her to an opera, wherein was represented the amours of Psyche and Cupid, with a great deal of life and spirit, which pleased the princess Graciosa extremely.

The time to rest drawing on, the queen sent her daughters to conduct her to bed, attended by twenty-four beautiful virgins, who were to be her guard till the next morning. The princess endeavoured to repose herself, but in vain: she knew all was enchantment, and therefore she told

Percinet,

Percinet, that though she could not but admire the difference of treatment she met with, from that of her step-mother Grognon, yet duty to the king her father, overbalanced at that time, any other passion; and conjured him, as he expected a solid reward of his love, to conduct her in safety home again; though such a separation from the queen his mother and the princesses his sisters, might sensibly afflict her.

The prince gave her the hearing, and looked upon what she said, to be only a female effort to try the constancy of his affection. He fancied a night's sleep would make her forget so unpleasant a theme, and therefore, with a thousand adieus, left her to repose.

The morning arose with the sun, and the lovely princess as bright as them both, when Percinet stood before her in a cloth of green, trimmed with gold: he knew that dress would please her, and therefore chose green, which was her delight.

As soon as Graciola saw him, she fetched a sigh, and said, Ah, Percinet, the remembrance of my misfortunes banish my rest, and I dread the effects! Madam, replied Percinet passionately, you have no reason to fear in a place where you reign sovereign! would you quit your admirers, for the cruelty of a step-mother? would you relinquish the tenderness of your slave Percinet, for the severities of one who is insatiably cruel? ah, madam, forget not me, forget not yourself!—I cannot help it, replied the princess, it is the duty I owe to a father, and I should be more happy if you would join with me in the same sentiments:—But Oh! and here she sighed.—

Prince Percinet embracing her, put a stop to  
her

her sighs; and as a testimony of his conformity to her will, promised, that after eight days diversion, he would conduct her to her father's palace.

The princess rejoiced to hear these words, and whilst they were discoursing together, had a secret desire to know what was transacted by Gragonon during her absence; and having notified her mind to Percinet, he took her to a high tower, built on a chrystral rock, on which he bid her set her feet, and hold her little finger on his hip. She did, and immediately she saw Gragonon and her father sitting together. She heard her persuading her father, that Graciosa, through pride had hanged herself in the cellar, and that there remained nothing but to bury her; she saw him weep for the loss of his daughter; she saw the subtle step-mother dress in a shroud a wooden log, and put it in a coffin, to deceive the king. She saw all this attended with a solemn procession, and with pompous ceremony laid in the grave; every one condoling her death, and cursing the wretch that was the cause of it; whilst her father abstained from food, and grieved excessively.

The grief of the king was that alone which pierced the heart of Graciosa; and therefore she earnestly implored Percinet to transport her home, to undeceive her father.

The prince endeavoured to persuade her to the contrary, but finding his endeavours to no purpose, well, said he, I must obey you, but perhaps you may see cause once more to wish yourself here again, though not upon the account of Percinet, whom you thus punish with the severity of a hard heart.

Having taken leave of the queen and the princesses, and rode together in a chariot, till they came just without the palace, where the prince became invisible; but the princess soon flew to her father's chamber, and lay prostrate before him. At first the king supposed it was her ghost, and started through fear; but she held by his robes, and soon convinced him to the contrary. She told him, that she had lived in a forest, and cruel Grognon had imposed upon him by a mock funeral of a log; and desired his protection to screen her from future danger.

The overjoyed king caressed his daughter, and sent immediate orders to dig up her supposed graves, where (as she had said) all the cheat was discovered. Yet the king was too effeminate to discover the treachery: and when it was told Grognon, that the princess was with her father, she ran desperately to his apartment, swearing that she would immediately have that pretended daughter of his, or else she would with all her riches forsake with depart his realms, affirming that Graciola had hanged herself and that this was an impostor.

The codle-headed king was so weak as to submit to it, so that Grognon, with hellish joy, had her once more in possession. She soon put her cruelty in execution: she caused her to be thrown into a stinking dungeon, and instead of princely robes, cloathed her with canvas, made her wear a tarpaulin cap, and fed her with bread and water.

As afflictions recollect past deliverance, so this brought to mind the words of Percinet, but she durst not wish herself in Fairy-Land, nor call to him

him for relief, supposing that the love of that prince was lessened, for which she might thank herself.

In the mean time, Grognon had procured a fairy to assist her, ten times more devilish than herself. They laid their diabolical heads together, and consulted how they might punish her with tasks impossible to be performed by any mortal.

The first thing the fairy procured was a large tub filled with feathers of all sorts of birds in the world, so mixed together that the very birds themselves could not tell their own.

Oh, how glad was Grognon at this scheme! revenge put wings to her pace, till she came to the princess. The tub of feathers being ready, were impudent, said she, sort these, and lay every plume by itself, and not one feather amiss. And so left her under three locks.

The innocent virgin began her endeavours, but finding them fruitless and the work impossible, gave it over with grief. I see now, said she with a tone that would break a heart of flint, my death is the life of my enemy, and I must submit. Oh that I should have wronged my manifold deliverer, Percinet, and by slighting his love force him to abandon me in this condition.

The words were no sooner out of her mouth, but Percinet appeared, who lay hid all the time among the feathers. Most dear princess, said he your troubles shall vanish by my presence, and he who is always near to you, will convince you that he prefers not his life to the love he owes you. With that he waved his wand three times, and the feathers were divided according to her wish.

The princess thanked him, and gave him assurance of her high esteem. But madam, said Percinet, does nothing else remain? have you taken an oath never to resolve in my favour?—She made no answer, but gave a nod, and so Percinet, with a troubled breast, retired at her pleasure.

When ugly Grognon came, and found her devilish device baffled, it was thought she would have burst in pieces; and though she could not find the least fault, yet, to retain her cursed temper, did not forbear abusing her with her wicked fists. She retired to her chamber, and sent for the fairy, loading her with the worst of language, and reproached her with trick and deceit.

The fairy at this, was as much confounded as herself; at last she comforted her once more and said, she had an invention left, that would please her to the life, and plague all the people in the world to find out.

In a few minutes the fairy procured a box, and gave it her, which when once opened could never be shut by any one alive; and ordered her to send Graciosa with it, to her rich castle, and not to open it, on pain of death.

Grognon did as the fairy ordered, and dispatch-ed away the princess with it, charging her to set it upon a particular table in the castle, without looking in it, as she valued her life.

The virgin traveller accoutré with nothing but wooden shoes, a canvas gown, and a tarpau-lin cap, set forward with a heavy heart, and though she appeared so disguised, her incompara-ble beauty drew after her the eyes of all she met.

At

At last, after many a weary step, she sat down to rest herself in a pleasant meadow, by a murmuring brook, and whilst she was musing on the vicissitude of fortune, it came strongly into her mind to open the box, notwithstanding so strict a prohibition; she struggled with herself a great while, but at last gave way to her fancy, with a design not to take any thing out, but only to gratify her curiosity in seeing what was in it.

She opened it, when (O wonderful!) at that instant the meadow was filled with fairy men and women of all ranks and qualities. There were among them great numbers of musicians, stage players, fencers, dancing masters, cooks, &c. and not one melancholy fairy among them all. The fairies of quality were drawn along the banks of small rivulets, in chariots of cockle shells, by beatiful hum birds, which made a melodious harmony, whilst the rest sung, danced, played, feasted, and revelled wantonly about the meadow, to the great amazement of Graciosa.

At last the princess thought it high time to call them into her box, and proceed on her errand, but they all refused. Then she ran after them, but they flew from her. When she pursued them in the meadow they took to the wood; and when she followed them there, the nimble footed fairies were immediately in the meadow.

Now she began to blame herself for her curious indiscretion, and repented a thousand times of her folly. She saw a necessity of calling upon her prince to extricate her out of the worst of perplexities, and cried out aloud, Ah, Percinet! Percinet! come once more and assist thy imprudent princess, if thy love be real.

The good natured prince put a stop to her call, by his appearance, she soon saw him in his green cloathing. Madam, says he, would you ever think of me, were it not for Grognon?—He would have said more, but she interrupted him, saying, believe otherwise and be happy; for in a little time your constancy shall be crowned, and yourself blessed.

Never did a lover appear more transported with joy at the expression of a mistress, than Percinet at the words of Graciosa. He made no more ado, but struck his wand thrice upon the box, and the danger was all over. It would have made a melancholy laugh to see how eager the little fairies were (not an inch long) to get in one before another. So that in an instant the tiny gentlemen, with their madams, the cook with their spits, and every one placed themselves in the box, with the same exactness and order as at first.

Percinet then rendered her invisible; and lifting her into his chariot, rode with her to the castle.

When she came to the governor of the castle, and asked for the key in Grognon's name, he smiled and wondered at her impudence, in asking the question. Graciosa being refused with a severe reprimand, Pray then, sir, said she, give me a line or two, to the queen your mistress, of your refusal; which he did.

The prince met her returning, and took her into his chariot, and drove towards her father's palace, but by the way got this promise from her, that if Grognon should load her with any more difficulties she would consent to his desires.

Grognon no sooner saw her return, but all Hell

Hell raged in her breast; she raved and tore, and cursed her fate, and laying hands on her fairy, would have choaked her, were it possible to do so by a fairy. Graciosa with respect gave her the governor's note and box; but she, devil-like, flung both into the fire; and 'twas well she did not so by Graciosa.

And now, without the assistance of any devil but herself, her own thoughts produced this last project.

By her command a very deep hole was dug in her garden, and a stone laid over it. She took her maids and Graciosa along with her a walking. When they came near the pit, said she to her attendants, move away that stone, and you'll find hid a great deal of treasure: Graciosa was the first to obey her; and which was no sooner done, but the wicked Grognon pushed her in headlong, and caused the stone to be laid as before.

Who would imagine now, but here was an end of her? 'Twas an impossibility for Percinet to find her (she thought) buried in the earth; and therefore she was willing to expire with these last words:

Ah, Percinet! Percinet! thy revenge is just for my persecuting delays; but now forgive me that which was the effect of an unwarrantable distrust of thy affection. I die, I die, and shall, with more satisfaction, were I assured that Percinet would sigh over me.

Here a noise made her start, at the opening of a little door, which introduced immediately a pleasing light. She saw presently fine gardens, full of all manner of fruits, flowers, fountains, grottos, bowers, &c. She ventured to step in, contemplating

## THE HISTORY OF THE

contemplating with herself the issue, when looking about her, she saw the castle of Fairy-Land, and Percinet, with the queen his mother, and his sisters: the queen approached her, and said, fair princess, content at last to make my son happy and free yourself from that horrid condition you are in.

At these words, Graciosa fell down before her, submitted to her discretion, and accepted Percinet for her husband. The prince, overjoyed at so great a blessing; affectionately embraced her knees, and immediately the whole palace was filled with music, and acclamations of joy. The marriage was celebrated with extraordinary magnificence, and the court thronged with a vast concourse of fairy quality. From all parts of the earth, fairies resorted thither, decked in their richest attire, making splendid entries; some in chariots drawn by doves; some by swans, peacocks, dragons, and serpents; and others posting thither upon fiery globes, clouds, and meteors. But, among all the rest of the spectators, came Grognon's fairy, in a chariot drawn by six rattle snakes, who beholding the princess with concern, was so smitten with her excellent beauty and perfections, she fell down before her, and begged forgiveness. The passion this fairy was in, about the cruel Gregson, and the reproaches she met with at court, for afflicting the princess, made her so uneasy, that whilst the marriage feast was preparing, she remounted her chariot, and in an instant, to do the fair princess justice, flew to Grognon's palace, where she wrung off the wicked queen's neck, and tore her limb from limb.

TALE



## TALE II.

Leander, or the Blue-Bird Prince, and the  
Princess Flamina.

IN former days lived a sovereign Prince, whose strength and riches were so great that he was formidable to all his neighbours; but what increased his comfort, was the enjoyment of one of the most virtuous and beautiful princesses in the world. But this happiness lasted not long; for in a little time the queen died, after a violent sickness of fifteen days.

There

There was an universal sorrow to be seen for so great a loss; and the king having devoted himself so much to grief, that like one delirious, he tore his hair, rent his mantle, and fasted eight days.

The whole court fearing he might destroy himself used all their endeavours to comfort him, but their good offices were in vain, and whatever they had done proved unsuccesful.

At last, a cunning, dissembling, self-ended widow of quality, undertook to banish from his majesty a melancholy that had brought him to the borders of death. She veiled herself, and went and humoured his grief, and whilst he commend-ed the endowment of his deceased queen, she blabbered out elegies, enlarging as much upon the qualities of her dead husband. And thus the subtle widow lamented so grievously, that it mo-ved the king to pity her, and by degrees, to for-get his own grief.

Having gone thus far, she threw aside her veil, and with false fire in her eyes, put a stop to his tears, and managed her part so dextrously; that the late queen's memory was forgot, and nothing would serve his turn but he must take her to wife.

Well to make short of it, married they were, to the great astonishment of all that heard it.

At the time of this second marriage, both of them had two only daughters; the king one na-med Florina, the glory of the world; and the new queen another named Truitone; despicable like her mother; of a swarthy greasy complexion, with a freckle skin, like the back of a trout; and of a temper base as vice could picture.

The daughter must needs be a jewel in the ori-ginal;

ginal, and therefore the queen called her nothing but her charming Truitone in all her discourse. And perceiving that the secret charms of the beauteous Florina had attached the affection of the whole kingdom through envy, was resolved to lessen her esteem in the eyes of her father, and this she did daily, by false accusations, clamours, dirty ridicules, and other indecencies, unworthy the notice of the sweet natured princess, who strove to be above her malice.

In a little time, there was news brought of the arrival of a most gallant and magnificent prince, called the Charming King. The queen having heard of the news, thought now was the time to make her daughter Truitone happy, and therefore caused her to be decked with the richest ornaments that could be gotten; and ordered all the brocaded silks and jewels of Florina to be locked up; so that when the Charming King had audience, she having nothing left but an old gown, through modesty hid herself in one corner of the room.

The Charming King was received with the utmost respect, when the queen presented him her daughter Truitone; but his looks were not pleasant, he could see nothing in her to affect him. The queen perceiving him chagrined, seemed to take no resentment, but attributed it to his modesty, and so past it by.

The Charming King had heard much of Florina's beauty, and looking about him, desired to see the other princess, the king's own daughter; there she is standing in yon corner, said unmanly Truitone. The king immediately addressed the blushing princess, with so much respect and

and love, that the queen could not forbear discovering some resentment; and being exasperated highly, prevailed with the king to confine Florina in a castle, so long as the Charming King stayed at court.

To render all things to her mind, she had ordered the Charming King's attendants to say every thing that was base and scandalous of Florina, and to make him believe, if possible, that she was one of the most sordid, ill-natured coquettes in the kingdom. But the Charming King was possessed with another belief, his affections were already settled; and he told those that gave her this bad character, That he had no other faith, than that it was the contrivance of herself, and deformed daughter Truitone, whose memory, much more sight, was his greatest torment. And that on t'other hand, the perfections of the most beautiful princess Florina could only compleat his happiness.

When they told this to the queen, she was in such confusion, that she vowed revenge to herself.

In the mean time, the imprisoned princess was bemoaning her hard fate, and much more the absence of the Charming King, who had already possessed her heart. She cried and wept bitterly, and often threw out invectives against that innocent beauty of hers that had thus enthralled her.

The queen at the same time was also plotting how to bring over the Charming King, and therefore sent him some of the richest presents in the world, requesting him to be the lady's champion that sent them. Among the rest was the Order of Love's Knighthood, which was a golden heart

heart set with diamond darts about it, and pierced with an arrow, bearing visibly this motto:

Wounded but by One.

Likewise a book bound in a gold cover, containing the laws of that order; in short, there was never an emperor before able to make such a present.

The charming King was ravished with it, and the more, when he fancied it came from the princess Florina, of whose imprisonment he was as yet ignorant. But when he was told that it came from Truitone, he said to the messengers, No: I'll be none of her champion; it is inconsistent with my honour to be at the disposal of those I cannot fancy; therefore thank your mistress in my name, and take back the presents again.

Never did envy and malice rage more than in the breasts of the queen and Truitone; they took this refusal with the utmost frenzy, and would, if possible, have burst at the thoughts of the Charming King's affections for Florina. And when they saw him approach, enquiring peremptorily where Florina was, the queen told him with something of warmth, that it was the king her husband's pleasure, that she should not be seen, till her daughter Truitone was married.

At this smart answer, the king with an air of indifference, gave both of them an unwelcome look, and without ceremony, left them to their own base genius.

When he had retired, and had leisure to think, it came into his mind to bribe some of the princess's maids to come to a sight of Florina; and in-

timating this design of his to a young nobleman that attended him, they soon procured one who promised to take upon her the busines.

But oh ! the wretch was false; she gave intelligence of all to the queen, and this brought about the first misfortune to the Charming King.

Truitone being told his intentions, ordered the false confident to proceed, and tell him, that he should be bless'd with an hour's conversation with her at night, through a little window; but, withal, to charge him, as he valued his life, to keep it secret.

The king rejoiced exceedingly, and longed till night came, whilst the queen had ordered her daughter Truitone to personate the princess, and gave her instructions accordingly.

The Charming King, at the time prefixed, was conducted thither, and there, in whispering accents, expressed his affections to the counterfeit Florina, which she gladly received. He told her, he would contrive her escape, and bestow on her two diadems, his heart and crown; and to assure her of his constancy, gave her a diamond ring, as a pledge of his royal promise. Truitone counterfeited sighs and tears, and faintly told him, she would be at his disposal, provided it conduced with his own safety.

The Charming King, pleased with his conversation, had staid lo long, the day-light put him in mind to withdraw; so that he took his leave for that time, with her consent to receive another visit from him in the same place the next night.

As angry as the queen and Truitone had been hitherto, now they seemed as joyful; and the night appointed being come, the Charming King had

had got ready a chariot drawn by flying frogs; and repairing to the castle, found his supposed princess ready, at a window designedly left open. In a minute he took her in his arms, and seating her in the coach, asked her in what place she would have the marriage consummated. The counterfeit replied, if he thought fit, it might be at her fairy god mother's, who lived in a castle not far off. Be it so, said the Charming King to his coursers, who no sooner heard where they should take their journey, but they flew through the air, and in a little time arrived at the fairy castle.

When Truitone had privately conferred with her god-mother, and told her what artifices she had used to bring over the charming King to her embraces, desiring her withal to assist her at this critical juncture. 'Tis to no purpose, said Souffio, 'tis all but labour in vain: Florina has his heart already: however to satisfy you, I'll try some experiments peculiar to my fairy art.

Away went Souffio with Truitone, unveiled to the king, who stood amazed to see his deformed enemy, instead of the lovely Florina, whom he impatiently expected.

Sir, said the angry fairy, marry my daughter, by fair means, whom you have promised, and given a pledge. Not I, said the king; you had as good persuade me to marry a lewd cinder wench. Charming King, said Souffio, be not so rash; Do you know what respect you owe here? I will respect you as a fairy, said the king, give me but my true Florina. Am not I she, said Truitone, whom you promised so faithfully at the little window? And is not this ring a witness

ness of it? 'Tis all a cheat, replied the king; therefore come my little pretty frogs, let us be gone and leave them to themselves. Hold, said Souffio, ask me leave first; and touching him with her finger, he was, as it were, nailed to the floor. If you kill me, said the Charming King, I will not take my heart from Florina; and so use the utmost of your pleasure.

They kept him in this posture six weeks using all the fair and foul means to persuade him; but Souffio, knowing it impossible, once more said, Will you marry her or not? I will not marry such a filthy brute, said the king, nor trouble myself with her. She shall not trouble you, said Souffio, and therefore for breaking your oath, you shall be a BLUE BIRD for seven years: with that she opened the window, and said you have nothing else to do now, master Blue Bird, but to take your flight.

She had no sooner said this, but he became so, in the bigness of a dove, with an ivory bill, and a tuft of milk white feathers on his little head; and so, stretching his wings, left sight of the castle in an instant.

The Charming King being fled, Souffio sent Truitone home, with an account of what had happened, but the rage the queen her mother flew into, was inexpressible. Well, said she, Florina shall suffer for all his obstinate flights.

With that she decked her daughter with the robes of a new married queen, put a crown on her head, and to tantalize Florina the more, made her wear the diamond ring on her finger, and the marriage ring studded with rubies on her thumb.

Thus

Thus equipped, with a vast retinue of lords and ladies, they went to the tower where the beautiful princess lay, and there told her, that Truitone was happily married to the Charming King, and that they were come to bring her some marriage gifts, which were inestimable, and so laid them down before her; whilst the fly Truitone discovered in particular to Florina the diamond ring, which she knew belonged to her Charming King.

The distressed princess, believing what they said, in the midst of unsupportable grief, fell into a swoon, and had she never recovered her cruel enemies would have blessed themselves for joy.

In a little time she recovered; but spent the tedious hours of night at her chamber window, beating into the air sighs and tears, and bemoaning her miserable condition, until day break made her retire to prevent a discovery.

The Charming King flew towards the castle where his princess lay, and because he would not be discovered by Truitone, resolved to sing but seldom, and that in the night.

He had observed a very tall tree adjoining to the castle, whose boughs of cypress came directly to her window, and there the Blue Bird took delight to spend his penitent hours.

The gilded moon appearing one night, he saw a lady bemoaning herself at a chamber window in the following manner:

Unhappy I, that I cannot meet death, since my Charming King, the soul of my life, is torn from me by the lewd embraces of the foul Truitone. What greater cruelty couldst thou inflict on an innocent

Innocent virgin, thou barbarous queen? And yet thou thinkest that torment insufficient, since I must fall a victim to thy unsatisfied revenge, within these flinty walls. O cruel fortune, cease my grief, or put an end to thy inconstancy, by sending me quick into another world.

The Blue Bird heard these complaints, and knew them to be the voice of the princess, who had proceeded farther, had he not interrupted her thus—

Ah, madam, would you be so cruel to put the world in mourning for so incomparable a princess?

Can there be any one so good as to comfort me thus, said she. Heavens! who is it?

'Tis a king, cried the Blue Bird, and to convince her that he was so, flew directly to the window, and told her all the wicked practices of her step mother and daughter; and how the fairy Souffio had transformed him into what he was, for the space of seven years, for refusing to marry the deformed Tritone. Behold, therefore, added he, your Charming King, transported with infinite joy, to see once more his beautiful Florina.

The princess, amidst a secret satisfaction, could not forbear wondering, how so little a bird should be so great a monarch. At which he hopped upon her hand and confirmed her belief, by relating every material accident, with a thousand endearing expressions.

Had you been by, to have seen the concern these two lovers were in, you would have wished yourself a Blue Bird too: for she stroaked his bill a thousand times, whilst he fluttering in her breast,

breast, ravished it with as many songs of his faithfulness and constancy.

In short, words cannot express the transports that past between them for joy they had met again.

When they parted in the morning, they thought every hour ten till night came. The princess all day was fearful that he should fall a prey to some ravenous bird; and he was anxious about the tediousness of his transformation, and the welfare of his princess.

The Blue Bird, to make the time less tedious, resolved to do something extraordinary for his mistress; so that at certain times he flew to his own palace, and brought away bracelets, diamonds, pendants, a rich watch in a pearl case, necklaces, bodkins, jewels, and every thing that was rich and valuable, and gave them, like a true courtier, to his lovely princess, saying, my adorable beauty, accept of these, and wear them for the sake of thy Blue Bird. Yes, my pretty charmer, cried the princess, provided you could see me in the day. I'll watch my opportunity, added he, for that: and the next day, as the sun arose, he saw from the boughs of the tree, the princess in all her splendour. He looked earnestly on her, with delight; who all that time beheld him with maiden blushes, and every thing we call lovely.

Two years thus stole away, whilst the ambitious queen was contriving to marry her daughter Tritone. She had for that purpose invited all the neighbouring princes; but they refused, agreeing all in this answer, that if she would offer the incomparable beauty Florina they should think themselves

themselves everlastingly happy in such a match; but as for Truitone, she might live single for them.

The queen, finding all her endeavours hitherto frustrated, believed Florina might hold some private correspondence with foreign princes; and therefore, right or wrong, she was resolved to impeach her of high treason; concluding, that she should never succeed in her designs, so long as the beautiful Florina was alive.

Big with this project, she went one night to Florina's apartment, with her daughter Truitone; and when they came to the chamber door, the queen listened, and heard the following song, which Florina and the Blue Bird were then singing in two parts at the chamber window.

Tho' my dear, thy fate is hard,  
And the pains I feel severe,  
Torments which I never fear'd,  
Yet our happiness lies here;  
They're but the effects of woman's rage,  
The cruel queen and Truitone;  
A conquest Love does still preface,  
When thee and I shall be but one.  
In spite of all their hellish spleen,  
Thou shalt be king and I thy queen.

The queen hearing these words, stamped with her foot, and cried out treason! Truitone, treason! bursting open the chamber door.

Florina, to save her Blue Bird, had just time enough to let him fly from the window, when the queen approached with fire in her eyes, we have been informed of your plots by others, said she,

she, raving; but now our own ears are witnesses of your conspiracy, to dethrone your father and I, and possess yourself of his kingdom, you perfidious baggage.

Alas! said Florina, who should I plot with, when I am always kept here alone, closely confined. 'Tis so, 'tis so, huffy, cried the queen and these fine jewels and diamonds are the presents given you in lieu of your father's dominions.

Amidst all this affliction, Florina could not forbear smiling at such inconsistencies. Well, said she, you may think what you please, madam, but it is very strange, that a helpless virgin, who has been a prisoner two years, and not able to sustain, in a manner, her own afflictions, should be in a capacity to act as you have said.

How came you then by all these fineries, said the queen, more fitting for Troutone, than you, gossip? I shall say no more but that I found them here, said the princess. 'Tis no such thing; you must needs have some correspondence, say what you will. The spirits of the air must assist me then, said Florina.

You mean the devil, said the snappish queen; but your witchcrafts are well known to me and your father; and we'll take care to do you justice; and so they left her to vent her grief.

The queen was as good as her word, for being told, That if Florina had the protection of a fairy, the only way would be to load her with fresh severities, and so she did with a vengeance.

She ordered a spiteful wretch to lie with her and watch all her actions; so that now her royal Blue Bird could no more converse with her at her

her chamber window: all her complaints were made inwardly to herself, whilst he was as much perplexed to see himself deprived of his happiness by so vigilant a spy,

The Blue Bird now grew melancholy, and sung sorrowfully to himself in the woods and groves about the castle. But Florina having observed her the spy to be overcome with tedious watching, and that she was fallen into a deep sleep, stole to the window and sung thus:

Come, my pretty gentle Bird,  
Whose livery is Blue,  
Thy constancy is true to me,  
And mine is so to you.  
Then hither to thy princess fly,  
That on thee I may cast an eye.

The Blue Bird heard her, and knew so well her mind, that he obeyed her call, and flew directly to the window, where they afresh renewed their love, with all the tendernesses, and endearing passions that could be. They wished their spy might sleep eternally; and whilst they were in vain wishing, the slut awaked and forced a separation.

The Blue Bird had many such opportunities, for as often as the spy fell asleep, Florina would call him as she had done before:

But alas! one time he had obeyed her call; and whether the spy had some frightful dream, or the lovers talked too loud, they knew not, but so it happened that she awoke, at a time when the light of the moon discovered to her who she was disengaging with. At first she was in a surprize,

to see a beautiful bird address Florina with all the actions of a lover; whilst she care'd his ivory bill, and took delight to stroak his blue livery. She feign'd herself asleep, and by favour of that fiction, heard all they said, till their time of parting came with the break of day.

She had already learned enough, and ran with the intelligence to the queen and Truitone, informing them of every thing that occur'd, and that particularly a king, in the shape of a Blue Bird, held correspondence with Florina.

Is it so? said the queen, storming, a very pretty fancy! she who I thought was deprived of the least comfort, has now all the happiness a heart can wish. Well, Truitone, cried she, we'll be quick in revenge, and soon make her truly sensible of the death of a lover.

The spy was ordered back with fresh instructions to appear now and then over sleepy on purpose to make new discoveries; whilst the queen had ordered the boughs of the cypress tree to be hung with pen-knives, razors, tenter hooks, &c. expecting something tragical to the Blue Bird.

She had in some measure her end, for the beautiful Bird, by flying and hopping to and fro, was so lamentably wounded, that he could scarce reach to his hollow lodging in the forest.

Had Florina seen him bleeding in his nest, bewailing the losf of a life, (as he thought) which he only kept for her sake, she must have dissolved into tears; she had sung often and often, her usual song, little thinking that he was taken up with nothing but sighs and reflections upon the severity of his fate.

He would now and then suffer himself, with a great

a great deal of pain, to believe that his princess was concerned in the intended massacre, and made her peace with the queen, at the expence of his blood: and this thought was so strong upon him one day, he had certainly laid violent hands upon himself, had not his old friend the enchanter prevented it.

The Blue Bird having told the enchanter, (who was sensibly touched with his afflictions) how he became transformed, and the occasion of his being wounded, he made no more ado, but by virtue of his styptic charms, staunched the blood, and healed his wounds. Then the Blue Bird (giving way to jealousy) told him the cause of his present misfortunes was the fair but cruel Florina, who had sacrificed his life, to free herself from prison.

Say you so? said the enchanter; O base, perfidious wretch! learn to forget her then, and all the rest of her ungrateful sex. Concluding, that where there is an excess of grief, reason is thrown aside; counsels are useless; and that every thing having its course, it was in vain for him to be impatient, since the lucky hour would come in its own time, and no sooner.

The Blue Bird owned all this, yet could not forget his mistress; however he prevailed with the enchanter to keep him in a cage the remaining five years, that he might be freed from the many dangers he was at present exposed to.

The princess Florina not hearing any thing of her royal Blue Bird, lamented bitterly, and took on at such a rate, that she pined away to a mere skeleton; and the thoughts of his being sacrificed to the rage of the cruel queen and Truitone, put her

her upon wishing every breath her last.

During their troubles of our two lovers, which were cause of mirth to the queen, the hardships of fortune began to be quite spent: for whilst, as I said, the queen and Truitone were making themselves merry with their misfortunes, the king, Florina's father, fell sick and died.

He was no sooner dead, but there happened a great insurrection in favour of the princess; nor would the nobility and commons be appeased, till Florina was brought from the tower, and elected queen, notwithstanding the menaces of the queen dowager. Nay they were so incensed against her administration, that they broke into the chamber where she was, took her by the hair of the head, and dashed her brains out against the pavement; whilst her daughter (narrowly escaping their rage) with much ado, got safe to her fairy god-mother Souffio.

The princess was no sooner crowned, but her health was consulted by the chief physicians; so that in a little time she perfectly recovered.

She then bethought herself of her Blue Bird, and taking a journey round the world, in order to find him. And having ordered the regency in her absence, she took with her a sufficient quantity of jewels, and went away unknown.

In the mean time, the enchanter, who was in pain for the royal bird in the cage, took a journey to the fairy Souffio, to try if he could prevail with her to restore him to his former shape.

However, all that he could do with her, was to persuade her to restore him to his shape upon this proviso, that her god-daughter Truitone should at the same time be sent with him to his

palace, to reside there some months: and that, if he could not during that time prevail with him to marry her, then he should become a Blue Bird again.

Things being thus settled, the necromancer (whilst Truitone's equipage was getting ready) went and fetched the royal Bird.

However, he no sooner arrived at Souffio's castle, but the old fairy stroked him thrice with her wand, and immediately he became as he was before, the most Charming King that ever eyes beheld, but very uneasy at the instances of the enchanter, who pressed him often to consent to marry the deformed Truitone.

All this time the princess Florina, disguised like a farmer's daughter, had travelled by sea or land, and took many a weary step to no purpose, insomuch that her tender feet became lame and troublesome.

To refresh herself a little, she made choice of a murmuring brook, and the weather being extreme hot, she tied up her silver hair, and stepped in to bathe her feet. At the same time appeared on the bank side an ancient woman leaning on crutches, who called to her to know why she ventured to bathe herself in that brook without company.

I am not alone, mistress, said the princess, weeping, for I have all the vexations of this world in my breast.

Cease your fears, said the old woman, and tell me what troubles you, and all will be well.

Florina putting confidence in what she said, gave her an account of all that happened to her, in that very day.

In short, the cripple told her, that the Blue Bird she sought for was now restored to his first shape by her sister Souffio; and that he was in possession of the kingdom. Take therefore, these four eggs, said she, and when you are in distress by the way, break one at a time, and they will certainly relieve you. Be quick in your affairs, added she, in the mean time farewell. —— And having so said, immediately vanished.

Florina, overjoyed at this news, took up the eggs, and put them in a little bag of wheat that hung by her side, and steered her course directly for the Charming King's palace.

She had not gone far but the first difficulty she met with, was a prodigious high and steep mountain of ivory, which she must unavoidably go over. She began to ascend it, but alas! her feet did nothing but slip, as often as she trod upon it.

In the height of despair, she made use of one of the old woman's experiments, and broke an egg: it was no sooner done, but out dropt several cramp irons, which she fastened to her hands and feet, and so got to the top with ease.

When she was at the highest pitch, a greater difficulty appeared than before; for the other side was all pure looking glass, ten times more steep; millions of men and women stood before it admiring themselves. Here all those that were deformed appeared extremely beautiful; the old gouty cripple frolicksome and young; and in short, every one what they pleased to be themselves.

Florina was no sooner seen on the top, she being the first that ever was seen there before, but the women screamed and cried out to her and the

men hallowed in a frantic manner; not so much for the danger she was in, but for fear their idol looking glas should be broke to pieces.

The queen seeing this, could not forbear smiling, with that she broke the second egg, and out came two doves with a chariot, which in a minute grew big enough to hold her. She slipt in, and they flew gently with her to the bottom. From thence, she prevailed with them to fly with her to the Charming King's palace. As soon as she arrived within the suburbs, she dismiss'd them, giving to each an inestimable kiss for their expeditious pains; a kiss as chaste as themselves.

Before she entered the city, she thought it proper to disguise herself in the habit of a scullion. Then she immediately enquired the way to the palace, and asked what place was most proper to stand and see the king in.

To-morrow, To-morrow, said they, his majesty goes to church to be married to the lady Truitone.

When Florina heard this, she fell into such an agony, that she had much ado to survive the news.

Well, upon second thoughts, she overcame her grief, and stifled her resentments for that time; not forgetting inwardly to reproach him for his perfidy, who was thus going to reward her for all the troubles she had laboured under for his sake.

She took a mean lodging, went to bed supperless, and by break of day went to the temple, where with much difficulty she got in and beheld two imperial thrones, one for the king, and the other for ugly Truitone.

Florina had liked to have made a discovery, but

but still she commanded herself and went and stood by the throne of her rival. Immediately in comes the Charming King, more charming than ever, and the ugly Truitone as ill-natured as ever, though in a magnificent dress: for she had no sooner seen the disguised queen, but the snappish beast wimpishly cried, what trollop art thou, hussy, that standest so near my throne!

I am come with a great many rarities to sell you, madam, said the disguised queen, and I go by the name of Gammer Scullion; and out she drew the bracelets the Charming King had formerly given her.

Fine knick-nacks indeed, said Truitone, worth ten thousand the pair: ha, Gammer Scullion, ha!

You wrong your judgement, cries the disguised queen, pray madam, shew them to his majesty.

So the beast followed her directions, and went to the king's throne with them. The king remembered the bracelets he had bestowed on Florina, and his colour came and went surprisingly; but setting a good face on it, he told Truitone, that he had such a pair once, more valuable than a kingdom but that there were more of the same he never yet could learn.

With this answer she returned to Florina, and said, well gammer, what must you have?

They are invaluable, said she, yet I desire but one night's lodging for them in the cabinet of echoes.

Ay marry, and welcome, said Truitone, that you shall have: and so gave orders accordingly.

By the way you must know, that this cabinet of echoes was a contrivance so ingenious, that the softest whisper in it might be heard in the

king's bed chamber; and of this cabinet the Charming King had told the fair Florina formerly, so that it came into her head now, that there she might reproach him for his unfaithfulness.

But here an unlucky accident happened: the king grieving for Florina, was grown so restless and watchful, that he could not sleep without opium; so that all her complaints with her bracelets, were thrown away in vain. An accident unknown to Florina, and which the more augmented her sorrows, she being ignorant whether the king heard or not. But which way to get another night's lodging in the chamber of echoes she could not tell, her bracelets being gone.

A little study put her in mind of the egg experiment; and to work she went with her third egg, and broke it, which produced a most charming coach of polished steel, inlaid with curious figures of gold. But that which was most admirable, was its being drawn by six milk-white mice, harnessed with green, having for their charioteers and postillions two well-complexioned young rats, whose livery was rich rose-coloured brocaded silk.

In the coach sat four of the most beautiful puppets in the universe. All the European fairies could not produce the like. They would dance upon a spider's web, and throw themselves through the eye of a stocking needle. 'Tis a folly to talk of the agility and parts of this family; they must be well bred to be sure, and of good families.

The queen was extremely glad the breaking of the third egg should produce a rarity so extraordinary, and was resolved to let Truitone be the first

## TALES OF THE FAIRIES.

first that should see it. She therefore watched Truitone's walking in the park, and when she saw her, she set the little mice a galloping, with the chariot and company after it.

The ugly Truitone no sooner saw it, but believed the devil was coming for her, 'till she saw the queen giving them directions.

Ha, Gammer Scullion, said she, you have gotten a fine little nicely there indeed; will you take a crown piece for it.

Not I, by my troth, madam, said the queen; nothing less than another night's lodging in the chamber of echoes.

Thou shalt not want that, said she, and turning about laughing to her maids, called her a fool.

Having taken up her lodging that night in the chamber of echoes, she made the most lamentable complaints to move the Charming King to compassion; but the second night was as unsuccessful as the first, the king having taken opium that night also.

Oh what torment was poor Florina under at this disappointment! She had but one egg left, and if that did not take effect, she was sure to be miserable for ever. Break it she was resolved, and so with a mighty force threw it on the table; when behold! instead of an egg, was found a charming party with half a dozen birds in it, singing in a most pleasant and wonderful manner, notwithstanding they had been sufficiently baked.

This was no sooner done but one of the king's pages came by, and seeing her, cried, Ha! Gammer Scullion, if the king had not taken opium last night, you made noise enough to keep him awake all the time.

Florina,

## THE HISTORY OF THE

Florina, observing this, was resolved to strike home while the iron was hot.—Hark ye, said she, pretty page, promise me that the king shall have no opium to night, and thou shalt have all these riches, pulling out a handful of diamonds.—The page made no more ado, but gladly took them, and gave her a faithful promise it should be so.

He was no sooner gone, but Truitone came by with her maids, and seeing Florina with such an odd sort of a pye, eating part of it, as she supposed, was greatly surprized for the present, as were all her attendants.

But desirous to know what mystery she was upon, cried out, Ha, Gammer! what are you at now.

I am making a breakfast of physicians, musicians, and lawyers, said she. At which the birds fell a singing more merrily than before, some in one tune and some in another; the doctors of physic sung their abilities in curing all sorts of lunacy but that of love; the astrologers, for a white halfpenny, would have told a barren woman how many children she would have.

In short, Truitone was so taken with this pleasant pye, that besides another night's lodging in the chamber of echoes, she gave Gammer Sculion a broad piece of gold for it.

Florina longed for night, and when it came, took up her lodging in the chamber as usual.—Having drawn from the bottom of her heart a sigh so vast that none but a soul like her's could contain it, she began her complaints in the following words.

Is it possible that a princess, who had no other heart to dispose of than what I have sacrificed for you a thousand times, should be so flighted at last? Can you be so forgetful as not to remember your own metamorphosis, our window amours, my imprisonment and many afflictions, your oaths and avowments? If you can, how comes it that Triton must rival one you resolvèd never to abandon? O infatuated king! O constant, but unfortunate Florina!

Every word that she said was distinctly heard by the king. He knew it to be Florina's voice, and his soul was upon the fact. He cried out, and complained of the dismal misfortunes that separated them, and laid as much to her charge, as she could do to his.

Florina, sensibly touched with a secret joy, that the king had heard her, cried out, most charming King; would you be informed more of Florina, have the courage to send for Gau-mér Scallien.

The king sent for her accordingly, and was told she was in the cabinet of echoes. He went thither, and there found, to his astonishment, the beautiful Florina lying on a couch, with all her charms, and the several lamps burning before her, which discovered two of the most perfect altars love ever erected.

The astonished king approached her, whilst she lay trembling though not afraid. He saw it was his princess, and threw himself at her feet, and kissed her hand a thousand times. The princess fixed her eyes on him, and at that very instant the memory of all misfortunes was lost. They were lovers indeed, they reciprocally forgave each other,

other, and buried in oblivion all their mistrusts and jealousies. So that they wanted nothing now to compleat their happiness, but to free themselves of the fairy Souffio.

In the midst of their consultations, advice was brought of a certain enchanter's being arrived at court. The king admitted him to his presence, and found him to be his old friend, who had brought with him a fairy from the farthest parts of the earth.

After a little discourse, they told his majesty that they had prevented the danger of Souffio, and that he and Florina might now begin to reap the fruition of an uninterrupted love; for nothing now could hurt them.

News was no sooner spread at court but the hearts of the people were over-joyful; and every one was pleased with the princess, whose disposition was sweet and affable to the meanest person.

Truitone, by this time had been informed of Florina's being with the king, and was running with open mouth to reproach him, but the enchanter and fairy coming by at the instant, they deservedly turned her into a sow, agreeable to her name and nature.

The filthy beast thus transformed, was immediately hunted out of the court to be the sport of chair-men, link-boys, and lackies.

There remains now no more to say, but that the Charming King and beautiful Florina hastened to consummate their marriage rites, and reap the benefits of reigning, not only over a happy people, but in the hearts of each other.

T A L E



## TALE III.

*The Fair Indifferent; or the Hobgoblin Prince  
and Furibon.*

**I**N former times, there lived a king and queen, who had never any issue but a son; a boy so monstrously deformed in shape and mind, that nothing appeared promising in him.

The indulgent queen (like too many mothers in this age) loved him beyond expression; so that she was hood-winked to his ill qualities, and thought every imperfection in him agreeable and pleasing. And that he might command both respect and fear as he grew up, gave him the name of Furibon.

At

At the same time the king his father made choice of a nobleman related to the crown, to be his governor, who had a son named Leander, that was the greatest ornament of the age for temper, beauty, and wit.

This gentle nobleman was the companion of Furibon; a prince, for the malice of his disposition, as much hated as Leander was beloved.

Furibon perceiving Leander had more respect than himself, began to envy his happiness; and the more, since he was courted by all the ladies of quality, who had given him the title of the Fair Indifferent; a name which Leander had justly merited, by not fixing his affections on any particular lady, though extremely obliging to all.

The malice of Furibon increasing, Leander's father sent him into the country, not only to free him from his rage, but that he might get rid of the prince.

One day as Leander was sitting in an arbour, playing upon a flute, a beautiful snake flew directly to him and twisted herself about his leg. Leander was going to kill it, but the pitiful innocent looks of the snake seemed to mean him no hurt.

The gardeners were then pursuing her, and would fain have persuaded him to kill her, for some mischief they said she had done.

No, said Leander, she has taken shelter under me, and she shall not be hurt. I will carry her to my chamber, and feed her with that she loves best.—Accordingly he took her up, and carried her to his own apartment, where he daily fed her with his own hand.

Furibon being told by some of his flatterers, that

that the ladies of the court had made satires upon his deformity, and odes in praise of Leander's beauty, he ran with rage to the queen his mother, threatening to kill himself, if she did not find a way to destroy Leander.

The queen took his part, and advised him to go a hunting with some desperadoes, where Leander used, and there to kill him. Furibon the next day followed her advice, when Leander hearing the hounds, rode out to see who it was, but finding to his great surprize, Prince Furibon there he paid him all the respect due to his quality. Furibon took no notice of him, but rode into the wood with his ruffians, when instantly a lion made at him, and tore him from his horse.

The intended murderers flew, and the prince had been that instant killed, had not Leander stepped in to his assistance, drew his sword, and cut off the lion's head. Leander then courteously offered the prince his horse, which he in a surly manner, without any sense of gratitude, mounted; not with a design to return home, but to ride in quest of those whom he had hired to murder him.

As soon as he spied them he made a signal and rode off, when immediately the villains fell upon Leander with great fury, who set his back against a tree, and maintained himself with such bravery, that in a little time they all lay dead before him.

Furibon staying some time, returned to the place expecting to see Leander dead, but finding the contrary, burned inwardly with passion. Leander seeing the prince, cried, Ah, Sir! If you had commissioned those rascals to murder me, I should have made no resistance; but—you are a saucy fellow, replied the prince, and come no

more into my presence on pain of death. So rode away.

Leander went home, and considering he had an implacable prince to deal with, to prevent further mischief was resolved to travel, and in order thereunto, provided himself with every thing necessary. However he would not depart without taking leave of his beloved snake, and ordering a sufficient maintenance, he therefore went to his chamber to feed it, but instead of the snake, he saw one of the brightest beauties in the world, among the fair sex. At first, he stood astonished, for her garb was so richly decked with diamonds, it dazzled his eyes.

Fear not, said she, hopeful prince; the snake you nourished was none but myself. I am a fairy, by name Gentilla: I live a thousand years devoted to all the merriments in the world, free from any danger. When that time is ended, I am obliged to be eight years a snake, and then resume the shape you see again: If I am killed within my eight years snakeship I never survive again: You have already preserved me from that eternal dissolution, and I shall as lastingly acknowledge it. Ask therefore, what you will of me, and you shall have it; for it lies in my power to make you a magnificent emperor, give you length of days, bestow upon you what riches you wish to have, make you the heart and soul of the fair sex. Now chuse you which you like best, to be either a spirit of the air, earth, or water, or all of them, and it shall be so.

Leander admiring her gratitude, thanked her, and said, that as he was bent upon travelling, he desired he might be a spirit at large.

With

With that, the fairy stroking him thrice over the face, said, then be it so, Leander, and may you prosper in all your undertakings. At the same time giving him a feathered cap, to render him invisible as often as he pleased.

The little cap Leander first made trial of, he put it on, and pulled it over his ears, and then wished himself gathering wild roses in a distant forest. It was no sooner said, but he was carried thither safely, through the air in a minute: he delayed not to gather three roses, and so wished himself back again.

Then he carried the roses to the fairy Gentilla, who strictly charged him to keep them safe, assuring him that one should supply him with what wealth he wanted; the second if applied to his mistress's neck, would inform him whether she was virtuous or not; and the third would preserve him from sickness and death. — And having thus informed him, she said no more, but wished him success, and instantly vanished.

Now thought Leander to himself I am happy; to court I will go, and there exercise my innocent mirth upon the ungrateful Furibon.

He did accordingly, but upon his arrival, he was very much surprized to hear that Furibon was then with his father, complaining that Leander had contrived to murder him as he went a hunting.

Whilst he stood hearing these falsities, one of the king's messengers came and carried him before his majesty and the lying prince. Revenge thyself on him, said the king to his son Furibon. But being afraid to look him in the face, he turned tail, and ran to his mother for help.

The queen soon posted to the king, to confer with him about Leander, and the cowardly monkey her son minding to hear what she said, laid his ear to the key-hole of the door. Leander no sooner perceived this, but he put on his inimitable cap, and taking a hammer and nails that lay by him, tacked his ear fast to the door.

The boy Furibon feeling the smart, fell a roaring and bellowing like a hog, and his outcry reaching the queen's ears, she flew from the king, and bursting open the door, tore her son's ear from his head.

The queen was out of her wits at the sight, the blood running down from his head as if it fell from a stuck pig; and nothing but howling was heard.

Well, at last with much ado, the sow took up her pig's ear, for Leander, who was now a goblin, had flogged her hands and the boy's nose all the time; so that there was an outcry of murder! murder! the whole court rung with it. The servants came, and the king also, but seeing nobody touch him he thought they were both mad, or the Devil was in them.

Leander in the mean time was got into the queen's fruit garden, in his own shape, pulling down the choicest fruits and flowers, and throwing them about the walls; and for any but the royal blood to do this was immediate death.

The gardener perceiving it went presently and told the queen of it, who sent her son with a band of soldiers to bring him by force to her. Leander no sooner saw this, but on went his invisible cap, just as Furibon was coming to him, and taking up a round pebble, hurled it at the prince and

and broke his arm. Then he hampered his legs so fast that he fell down among the gravel, and mangled all his face. As for the soldiers, he flung all the queen's ripe oranges at them, sometimes shewing himself, and sometimes not, so that they were glad to get away as well as they could.

When he had sufficiently pleased himself with this diversion, he was resolved to leave the court unknown to any of his servants, and mounting next morning his trusty steed Grisdelin, travelled till he came to a large, spacious city, he became acquainted with a certain lady named Blondina, but observing something of levity in her conversation, made trial of his rosy experiment, and watching an opportunity when she was asleep, laid it gently upon her neck, when it was soon withered, and lost its beauty.

By this he discovered that Blondina carried two faces, and was in love with another, and to know the whole matter, wished himself in Blondina's bedchamber, where he found an awkward country catgut scraper, making his addresses to her.

In my fairy's name, said Leander, I'll not suffer this. So he took him by the throat, and flung him out of the window, by which fall the fidler had his teeth beat out, and his fiddle broke to pieces.

The next exploit Leander performed was— After he had sufficiently reproached the incostant Blondina, he went to another city where he saw a lady led to a nunnery, but with the utmost unwillingness a dejected face could express.

He no sooner saw her led by her two brothers; with her mother following after, but he cried out

with a loud voice, Desist, you barbarous brethren, or else it is heaven's will you shall be squeezed to atoms.

The voice was like thunder, and the people were astonished at it; but the brothers persisted, and said it was nothing but the noise of her sweet-heart, who had hid himself for that purpose.

A quarter staff lying by, Leander took it up, and belaboured them both so heartily, that they and all the company were forced to retire with precipitation, and leave the virgin with he goblin and her lover, who was among the crowd in disguise.

Leander perceiving this, resumed his shape, and modestly requested the virgin to accept of his service.

The transports of joy she was in to see herself free, obliged her to tell him in short, that having given her heart, and promised to marry that chevalier, (pointing to him) who had no considerable fortune, 'twas for that reason her relations were then carrying her by violence into a nunnery.

Say you so, beautiful virgin, cried the generous Leander, their fortunes have forsook them, and 'tis no more in their power to seperate your affections. You shall never want wealth to complete your happiness. — With that he shook his rose between them, till there was gold sufficient to maintain ten of the richest peers in the land. Take that, faithful couple, said he, marry, and, be happy for ever; and so left them wishing himself in another place.

In his way through a large forest, he heard a virgin cry out so piteously, that the air echoed with her complaints. Looking wishfully round

him.

him, he saw four russians hauling an innocent virgiu into the wood. Leander was as quick as thought, till he came up with them. Hey day, cried he, What hurt have these innocent years done, that she must be treated thus? I command you to let her alone.

Yes, by all means, forsooth, said they, Mr. Hubble Bubble.

Well then, cried he, I will make you; so he jumped off his horse, and put on his invisible cap. The rogues thought he was quite gone, and had left his horse to their mercy; but they were woefully mistaken, for the goblin soon seized him that held her; and tied him to a tree, whilst the rest were in vain pursuit of his steed Grisdelin.

The nimble-footed beast having tired and almost blinded his pursuers, by kicking sand and gravel in their eyes, one of them gave over the chace, and returned back, who no sooner saw his companion in that condition but he fell into a passion, and called him fool, blockhead, puppy, coward, and what not, supposing he had suffered the virgin to hind him in that manner, there being no body, as he thought, to assist her, giving him withal several severe thwacks over his shoulders, for his supposed cowardice.

The goblin having sufficiently laughed at this adventure, seized the other and bound him to another tree, directly before his companion's face.

Heavens! what better sport than to see this fellow railed at by his comrade. He spit at him, he called to him and cried out, You valiant fellow, you rascal, you puppy dog, why don't you come and correct my cowardice now? But alas! his opposite was quite out of countenance, and having

having nothing to say, hung his head like a bulrush.

Abricotina (for so was the virgin's name) having made her escape, Leander was resolved to find her out, and learn the history of her misfortunes. His steed returning he soon re-mounted, leaving the two rogues to die with hunger.

Leander had not rid far from the place, but he overtook Abricotina, who being weary and faint, was refreshing herself under a tree. At first sight of the steed she thought herself happy; for she had a strong fancy that Grisdelin was coming to carry her to the palace of love and pleasure, though she saw no body on his back.

The goblin knew well her mind, and riding up to her, took her in his arms, and set her before him. Then putting spurs to his little nag, and pulling off his cap, he became visible. Abricotina supposing him a spirit, would have started from him, had he not held her fast.

Ah, madam, said he, do you fear your deliverer?

No, Sir, cried she, but I tremble at the thoughts of a spirit.

I am none, you may feel, replied he; therefore abandon all such thoughts; I am ready to carry you in safety wherever you please: let me intreat you therefore in the mean time, to let me understand the rise of your misfortunes.

To pass away the time, said she, I cannot in gratitude deny the request of one I am so much obliged to.

Know then, Sir, continued she, that many years since, one of the most eminent of the fairies was so weak as to marry a prince, contrary

to all law, remonstrance, and persuasion of the order of fairyism, for which she was expelled their society. It happened that the prince, her husband, in a little time grew tired of her, there not being an action of his, any where, but she presently knew it; and which she made use of to render his life uneasy wherever he went.

Tired with this way of living, he privately retired to a lonesome cell, some thousand miles distant from home, and where, as he thought, it was impossible for her to find him. But alas! the project was weak; for she was an universal fairy, who held intelligence in all parts of the earth.

The prince had not left her three days, but she found herself with child by him. In this condition she doubled her revenge, and called to an invisible eagle: she flew with it directly to her husband's den.

The fairy no sooner saw him, but she flung herself at his feet, and said,

'Sweet prince, behold thy fairy princess, whose pregnant womb is now with child of thy own image; be persuaded to go back with me, and you shall have whatever you desire.'

Thus she lay intreating him with all the alluring expressions she could invent; but finding him deaf to her persuasions, and obstinately bent never to live with her more, she assumed all the rage of a disappointed woman; she railed, foamed, swore, and spoke all in one breath: sometimes she would grin and spit at him; and sometimes stamp and tear her hair through revenge. Thus she continued till the cholick seized her, and put her in mind of returning home.

'Well,

'Well, (said she, rallying once more) If I had a mind to revenge myself on thee, thou cruel one, I could immediately transform thee into a viper, cat, toad, or hog; but stay where thou art, and let thy punishment be to dwell among screech owls, and other nocturnal birds.' And having said this, she took to her eagle, and in a minute flew back to the palace.

She was no sooner arrived, but she dismissed all her men servants, and took in their stead a certain race of women called Amazons. To these she gave strict orders to repair to the several passes round the island, and not let any man enter upon pain of death.

Some time afterwards she was delivered of a daughter, who, as she grew up, became one of the most lovely princesses in the world. This princess, continued Abricotina, is now my mistress; and all her servants, as well as myself, by virtue of the power of fairyism, given her by her mother, are never the worse for age. You would think me but fifteen, but alas! two hundred years have already run over my head, yet still I am the same. The island I am going to is called the Island of Calm Delights, and my mistress is the queen of it. Her mother left it some time since, when she retired to her own palace, in the center of Fairy-Land.

But to come down to the cause of my late misfortune, you must know, added she, that I had the keeping of all my mistress's birds, and one day I was so unfortunate as to let fly a parrot, as dear to her as herself. The bird was no sooner flown, but apprehensive of some severe punishment, I retired out of the island in search of it.

The

Then it was those villains seized me; they hovered about the island, with hopes to steal away my mistress, and carry her to a deformed prince, called Furibon, who had seen her picture, and had sent them thither for that purpose.

And is it possible for me, said Leander interrupting her to gain admission? is there no way, fair Abricotina?

In my opinion, said she, there is no possibility, Were it in my power, I would effect it: but I am no more able to do it than to make a world.

I can enable you, cried Leander, suffer me to enter with you in the habit of an Amazon, which I can have at my wish.

Forbid it, Heavens! cried she, such an enterprise would terminate in the ruin of us both. Better would it be to forget the thoughts of this island, than to entertain what will only prove anxious and unfortunate.

Whilst they were thus discoursing together, they came to the brink of a river, when Abricotina springing from his arms, threw herself on the other side, and cried, be happy, generous prince, where ever you go, and the whole world wait on you with infinite delight and pleasure.

And may you sweet virgin, laid Leander, when occasion serves, bear a remembrance of me in your heart.

They were not parted long, but Leander was resolved to wish himself in the island with her. Accordingly, he put on his cap, and in an instant he was in the palace of Calm Delights. He found the palace was of pure gold, standing upon chrysal, in the middle whereof the graces kept guard with admirable order. All the wonders of the

four elements embellished it. Not a man or boy was to be seen, the very idea of that sex being lost among them. But there were infinite numbers of the most beautiful women that nature could mould, all gay and lively, as the sun at its rising. All the walls of the apartments were built with diamonds and precious stones. The princess's bed-chamber was all of chrystral glass, and every where expoled to shew the perfection of the whole world. The throne stood in the concave of a large pearl, about the bigness of a musk-melon, upon which she sat in state with her maidens about her.

Leander being invisible, saw all this, and as he stood admiring the princess, proclamation was made according to custom, that her highness was going to speak, when immediatly the graces came and seated themselves upon her lips.

Looking around her with an air of serenity, she asked what was become of the nymph Abri-cotina, that she did not give her usual attendance; answer was made, that she had been sought carefully, but could not be found.

There being several parrots in the presence-chamber at that time, Leander presently mimick-ed one, and cried, dear prince, she will be here presently, having narrowly escaped being carried away by some wicked creatures called men, but was wonderfully preserved by a young prince that came timely to her assistance.

Just as he had said this, in the nymph came, and throwing herself at the prince's feet, told her all that befel her, and that a certain young prince, with all the charms that nature could bestow on man, had scued him from four villains, who

who were carrying her off. A prince, (added she) whom I could have brought thither and loved, had I not been enjoined to the contrary.

The princess being inwardly pleased at this relation, asked his name and place of birth; but the nymph being ignorant, could not inform her of either: at which Leander began to talk like a parrot again, saying my charming prince's, Abriticotina is unkind in not telling your highness, the strange prince will break his heart if he is not permitted to see my lovely mistress.

Let it be so, said the princess; and since you are so forward, Mr. Parrot, I charge you never to speak one word more of him.

With these words she arose from her throne, and with a beauteous train of nymphs, went into the great hall to supper. At her coming in, the birds set up their little throats, and sung melodiously.

Now Leander having learnt to imitate the birds in the woods, could sing better than the best of them; and willing to entertain the princess with something extraordinary, he sung in a canary bird's note the following song:

All our contented blissful days,  
In melancholy end,  
If love should not find means and ways,  
To stand at last our friend.  
Oh! beautiful princess, then embrace  
And nourish in your arms,  
Almighty Love, and you'll be blest  
With all its fruitful charms.

To hear a canary bird sing so much, and so like

a rational creature, must needs be very surprising and diverting. The princess asked Abricotina whether she had instructed that bird or not? The nymph answered her mistress in the negative; but told her she saw no reason but one bird might have as much wit as another.

The princess, however, fancied she had given it some particular instructions, and smiling to herself, took her place at the upper end of the table.

Supper being brought in, Leander, who had eat nothing since his arrival, invisibly made use of a cat's paw, that was a favourite of the princess's, to pluck the wing of a hum-bird out of the dish, which he eat as heartily as if he had been at plough.

When supper was ended, the princess was observed to be something uneasy. She rose from the table, and taking Abricotina with her, retired to her closet.

Having locked herself in, tell me, my dear Abricotina, the truth said the princess, when you gave a description of the prince that saved you, did you not flatter me, and say more of his merits than he deserved.

By the sacred order of Calm Delights, madam, replied she; if I had known so much of your mind before, I should have done him more justice, in giving your highness an ample character of him, as of the most admirable person in the world. A prince who was born to sacrifice at Love's altar; whose affiduieties are endless; and one who is the fountain of honour and virtue.

Is it possible, said the princess, sighing. Happy, happy girl, that thou didst not bring him here, to make him more miserable.

To

To give you perfect bliss, said Abricotina, and add to that supposed happiness of yours such solid joys which only can support the order of nature.

Hold your nonsense, said the princess; did not my mother leave me above five hundred years since large volumes of the miserable destruction of whole kingdoms and nations, by the freedom our sex have taken with the men? The precepts she has obliged me to follow, must I not observe? I charge you, therefore, say no more. But Oh! said she, pausing, let us, if possible, live as we have hitherto done, indifferent to all the world.

Here Abricotina observed a violent palpitation, which often raited her breasts and sent out a sigh or two; but at last, being touched with the same fire, she broke silence, and, with a little unusual courage (as confidents will do) why then, said she, did you send your picture into the world? was it only to persecute mankind twice? what must they imagine, who are no doubt rational as ourselves? Pardon me, madam, reason must certainly tell them you are a cruel beauty, that cannot be happy without disturbing the rest of the world.

Ah! said the princess, I must own it was a fault, and though I am a sovereign mistress, yet by this it seems, I have not lost the weakness incident to my sex. However, I could wish that picture of mine were in possession of none but the prince we talk of.

To me it seems injustice, to have more respect for the rest of mankind than him, replied Abricotina, otherwise you must have some innate affection to see him.

It may be I have that vanity, said the princess. At which time she broke off discourse, it being late, and betook them to rest.

Alas! they little thought who they had talked to all that time; Leander was invisible there, and heard, between hope and despair, all they said.

He thought it improper to take up his residence in the bed chamber, and therefore contented himself with a little cabinet adjoining, from which he could hear even the least sigh distinctly.

He had not been there long but the princess began thus:

My beloved Abricotina, you have given me some account of what you met with in your absence, prithee try to inform me of something more extraordinary; and, if possible, drive out one God by the power of another.

'Tis impossible, madam, said she, they have all agreed to make the unknown prince their favourite.

Pish, said the princess, did I not forbid you to mention him?

Madam, cried Abricotina I met with several little creatures by the way which exactly resembled young children, but certainly never any creatures were so nimble and dextrous. They skipped and danced from one tree to another with admirable swiftness, and played a thousand pretty pranks.

Such a creature, I fancy, might divert me, said the princess, were it possible to be purchased.

The assiduous Leander no sooner heard this, but presently wished himself in the forest, and brought from thence twelve fine apes in a velvet bag; then wished himself at Paris, where he bought

bought a little gold chariot, and two French monkeys, for you must know there are abundance of that passive breed in France, the one named Briscamble and the other Piercewood.

Into the bag they all went; which with Leander, were conveyed to the princess's gallery, facing her anti-chamber, whilst he remained invisible at her door.

The nymphs of honour no sooner perceived this curiosity, but they ran to the chamber, and opening the door, told her virgin highness, that his apish majesty was come to give her some diversion; at the same time the chariot went in, with a great concourse of apes of quality, performing such merry exploits, that the princess could hardly refrain laughing; and the more, when she saw a chariot without a driver; little thinking that the goblin managed the whole affair.

The chariot being drawn close to the princess's feet, Briscamble stepped out, and bowing with a genteel air, presented her with a diamond box, wherein was an ode in praise of her perfections, complaining of the wretched fortune of a prince who was led captive by her charms, and had become a willing slave to her beauty.

The princess having read it, gave a smile worth ten thousand worlds to Leander; and to add to her diversion, Briscamble and Piercewood entertained her with several fine dances.

Notwithstanding all this mirth, the princess could not imagine with herself from whence the ode came. And that she might conjecture with more freedom, she dismiss'd the French monkeys with abundance of thanks, and took to her closet.

The next morning early Leander having pro-

vided himself with materials, and sat down before a looking glass, drew his own picture to the life in an oval frame, and then in another frame, by the strength of imagination drew that of the princess to perfection. He drew himself kneeling, holding the princess in one hand, and in the other the following motto:

Within my heart thou better art.

The princess was no sooner up, but the picture presented itself to her view. She called Abricotina, and presently charged her with it. The nymph pleaded ignorance, and declared, though it represented to perfection in every lineament the unknown prince her deliverer, yet she knew not how it came there. Certainly, added she, it must be the effect of some amorous wizard; and therefore, if you would take my advice, the best way is to burn it immediately.

A thousand pities, said the princess, it is to burn such a lovely picture; I had rather it should remain in my chamber, looking with a languishing eye upon it.

But Abricotina running to fetch some fire, Leander, to prevent the danger, whilst the princess looked another way, conveyed it out of sight, to the great surprize of both when the nymph returned.

The princess, till now, had never known melancholy; and that she might complain with more freedom had dismissed her maids, and entered the garden alone, sighing and crying, talking to herself, sometimes standing stock still, and sometimes in a precipitate motion. In the midst of these agitations, casting up her eyes, she beheld the beautiful Leander, fixed like a statue, playing

playing upon the harp, and singing with a melodious voice a love song.

The princess, though pleased with the prospect, and ravished with its harmony, was so violently shocked with surprize, she could not forbear fainting away; she sunk down upon a bed of flowers, and there lay like Venus expiring, with ten thousand weeping Cupids about her.

Leander no sooner perceived it, but he leaped down to her assistance, and rendering himself invisible, took her in his arms, and comforted her with a thousand balmy kisses till she opened her eyes.

The princess would fain have seen her comforter, but she looked about her, but to no purpose; she felt indeed somebody take her very tenderly by the hands and kiss and weep over them with a thousand endearing offices. At last taking a little courage, she cried out, goblin! goblin! why art thou not what I would really have thee be.

Leander not thinking this juncture proper to discover himself, left her and retired to one corner of the garden. The princess finding herself alone, called out to Abricotina, and discovered what she had seen and heard, and how the generous goblin had relieved her from the swoon she had fallen into.

And will you not love him then? cried Abricotina.

What, a goblin! said the princess; who knows but he may be a monster?

So Psyche thought Cupid a snake, said the nymph and your case is much the same; but suppose, added she, that Cupid himself should admire you, could you not love him?

Ye

Yes, said the princess, provided Cupid and the unknown prince were one and the same; but, ah, said she, it is a vanity to think on it, my mother's severities would soon find me out, and, provoked for abusing her affection so much, render me for ever miserable.

Thus they discoursed together, when they were interrupted by an unwelcome messenger, who brought word, that monstrous prince Furibon, with an army of four hundred thousand men, was coming to invade her territories.

The princess and all her court were in the utmost consternation at this news; what was best in this extremity she could not tell: she dispatched Abricotina to her mother to implore immediate succours, but with no success; for she returned back with a disagreeable answer.

The fairy bid her tell her daughter, that she had wholly forfeited her motherly protection by neglecting her precepts: that she was sufficiently informed of the intrigues of Leander, whose residence at her court had ensnared and captivated her heart; that she might take the fatal consequences of it to herself, and that she would abandon her for ever.

Such a sorrowful answer as this, from a mother, who was ten times more powerful than Furibon, must needs be very afflicting. Leander knew it, and heard the sighs, and saw the tears of his princess; he was resolved to do something heroic in her favour and save a heart so precious, which otherwise would inevitably break.

With this resolution, unknown to the princess, he put himself into an Amazon's dress, and knowing Furibon to be of a greedy, covetous disposition

tion, went directly to his camp with a project to corrupt him.

He told him, that her Amazon highness had given her orders to inform his army, she would give him what treasure he would ask.

Furibon listening to so powerful a proposition, made answer, that as she was a woman she should have his protection, provided she could raise him in four and twenty hours, the full sum of ten hundred thousand millions of guineas.

O, Sir, said Leander, to count such an immense sum would take up too much time; tell me therefore, sir, how many rooms full would you have, for my mistress, rather than give you short, will fling in a hundred ton more than you ask.

Will she so, thought Furibon, then I will have all she has, or none. However, he told Leander, that if she would forthwith furnish him with as much as would fill thirty large rooms, upon the word of a king he would be satisfied, and never trouble her more.

It shall be done, (said Leander in disguise) who was thereupon carried to the rooms to be filled. Now, said he, King Furibon, you have your demands, shaking his rose, when immediately they were full of gold.

Furibon finding himself disappointed, cried out, he was cheated with base metal, and ordered his guards to fall upon the Amazon, as he thought, and kill her; but the goblin apprehending the danger, rendered himself invisible, and flying to his brutish majesty, wrung his neck off.

The goblin having revenged himself of his brutal enemy, immediately took up the head, and

and wished himself in the palace of Calm Delights.

It was no sooner thought but done; where he found the princess regretting the severity of her mother's answer, and weeping at the apprehensions of Furibon's army.

In the midst of these dejections she had looked about her; when to her great surprize, she saw a head come dancing towards her in the air, which in a space of a minute was laid at her feet.

The frightful phiz was matter of wonder to all there present, particularly to the princess, who could not with all her reason penetrate into the cause of a spectacle so tragical and uncommon.

In the midst of this amazement a voice was heard, that spoke these words.

Cease, bright princess, cease your fears,  
And wipe away those fruitless tears:  
The monster now his worst has done,  
And Furibon is dead and gone.

The voice was presently known by Abricotina, who cried out,

Ah, madam! the person that spake to you is the prince that saved me from destruction.

I could be glad of that, said the princess, if the goblin and prince were one and the same.—

To which the invisible Leander instantly replied, let me merit more first, madam; and so wished himself in Furibon's army.

He was no sooner there, but he publicly appeared in the same dress he was in at Furibon's court. The generals presently knew him, and with joy in their looks proclaimed him their lawful king, with

with universal acclamations throughout the whole army, which he forthwith caused to march back into the kingdom, whilst he returned to his princess.

It was late at night before he came there, when the princess was in bed, but restless, and could not sleep. Leander laid himself down in his usual apartment in his visible shape, and the princess overcome with heat, had slipped off her night gown, and was walking from one apartment to another. At last she came to that where Leander lay, he having neglected to fasten the door.

She viewed him over and over, and found him to be the very original of the picture she had seen.

She could not believe him to be a goblin, for she knew that goblins never slept, and that he was a spirit she thought it ridiculous, for she felt his hands and face, and twisted her fingers in the curls of his hair, and whilst her soul struggled between two extremes, joy and fear; joy for having found him, and fear at the apprehensions of an incensed mother. Thus she stood wishing, trembling, sighing, and had not power to be gone from him.

Is it possible for sleep to render a lover dead to the melting touches of the mistress of so great a happiness? he little dreamt the princess was treating him with the tenderness of a captive virgin.

And thus the moments fled away, when the fairy, her mother, who knew all her actions, with a violent clap of thunder flew directly into the room, took her by the hair of the head, dragged her beautiful body upon the floor, and was going to hurry her through the air.

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The noise soon waked Leander, who seeing the princess in this condition, thought gentle means most proper; and not to provoke a power so much superior to his.

He immediately threw himself at her mother's feet, and with all the compassionate expressions endeavoured to pacify her.

The princess likewise on her knees implored her mother's mercy, and told her with tears in her eyes, that she should be guilty of the highest ingratitude to slight a prince that had done so much for her, and that she should never enjoy herself, without the happiness of his conversation.

You know not, said the angry fairy, the fatal consequences of love; you had not been born a slave to its fetters, had not I woefully experienced it. Have you forgot how the king your father served me? Men are poisonous creatures, and their charms only serve to lull us into perpetual lethargies and ruin.

In vain they laboured to calm the rage of an incensed fairy, who calling to mind her own dear bought experience, would certainly have sacrificed her daughter, had not the good-natured fairy Gentilla stepped in at that very instant.

This lovely fairy being arrived, she fell about the neck of the old fairy, and caressing her, said,

Dear sister, have you forgot my affiduities for you formerly, when by my means you were reinstated in Fairy-Land? A thousand, thousand promises of requital you made me then; have I ever put you to the expence of making good one of them? Forgive the princess your daughter now, and let her be blessed in the marriage embraces of the most accomplished and good-natured

prince

prince in the world; that loves her with a constancy as lasting as heaven and earth. Be advised by me, sister, and without more ado, exalt their souls to the highest pitch of joy.

The old fairy had heard her with attention, and knowing that ingratitude was worse than the sin of witchcraft, cried, I consent, Gentilla, I consent, and then threw off her fury, and took the prince and princess in her arms, and gave them her fairy-blessing.

She immediately ordered the marriage rites to be consummated, and told Leander, that she would, as a portion for her daughter, cause the island of Calm Delights, the castle, and all the wonders therein, together with her Amazon subjects, who should be blessed with lovers to their wishes, to be removed with him into his own kingdom, whither she would accompany and live with him.

All which the fairy Gentilla saw performed with great splendor, pomp, and magnificence, the next day.



G T A L E



## TALE IV.

*Prince AVENANT, and the Beauty with  
Locks of GOLD.*

THERE was a time when a king had a daughter, whose beauty surpassed the world; her curled flaxen hair was finer than gold; and for that reason she was called, the Beauty with Gold-locks.

Upon her father's frontiers dwelt a comely wealthy young prince, who hearing of her fame, fell so deeply in love with her, that he sent an ambassador, with a magnificent train, to ask her in marriage; not doubting but the beautiful princess

cess would embrace his offer. But when the ambassador arrived and had audience, he received no other answer, but thanks from the princess for the honour his master was pleased to do her; and that at present she had no inclination to marriage.

The ambassador returned home with all the presents he brought, consisting of vast quantities of diamonds, &c. which she had modestly refused; but to discover something of her usual good nature, she made choice only of a thousand of pins.

At his return to court, every one was in perplexity, particularly the king, whose affection for her was so great, that it often drew tears from his eyes.

A young nobleman then in the palace, named Avenant, a favourite at court, of an admirable wit, shape, and mien, talking with some of the courtiers about this disappointment, made light of it, and accidentally let drop these words, if his majesty had sent me to the princess, I would have brought her to court, if it had cost me my life.

As soon as the king was informed what Avenant had said, he sent for him into his cabinet, and told him, that he was mindful to send him ambassador to the princess, and try what success would attend his negotiations.

I am ready, said Avenant, as soon as your majesty shall give me orders.

Nay, said the king, a noble equipage must first be in readiness.

Equipage! said he, I want nothing but your majesty's letters, and a good horse, and to-morrow I'll take my departure.

At this the king said, be it so; and taking him in his arms, rejoiced at his fidelity.

The next morning having taken a private leave of the king, Avenant began his journey, contemplating all the way how he should bring this great work about. Whatever came into his head of moment, he minuted down in his table-book; and he was one morning at this excercise, at the bottom of a meadow by a river's side, when he saw a fine gilded carp, which coming too near the shore, and by leaping at some flies, had flung herself on the bank, and there lay expiring.

Avenant took pity on the dying fish, and willing to preserve it, gently took it up, and laid it in the river again.

The fish immediately recovering itself, lifted up its head, and said, I thank you Avenant, my preserver, the time will come when I shall make you amends; and so dived to the bottom, to the great surprize of Avenant.

The next day as he travelled along, he saw a crow ready to be devoured by a ravenous eagle; pity seized his breast, and letting fly an arrow from a bow he had by him, shot the eagle through the heart, and delivered the poor crow.

The bird no sooner saw himself freed, but perching on a tree, cried out, Avenant, thou hast done well to relieve a poor wretched bird, be assured that I will take occasion to reward your generosity.

The witty and grateful answers of the carp and crow, took extremely with Avenant, and made his journey very pleasant. Early the next morning he entered a dark wood, where he heard an owl that was caught in a fowler's net, bemoaning

ing herself; and looking about him he no sooner spyst her, but his heart was moved to release her nocturnal ladyship. Accordingly he cut the net and out the flew.

The owl expecting the bird-catcher's coming, said, I must be short, Avenant, you have not only my thanks but my heart; and the saving my life in this critical juncture, shall another time turn to your advantage; and so flew away.

Some time after Avenant arrived at the palace where the Beauty of Golden Locks lived: and that he might make an agreeable appearance, he put on a rich embroidered suit, a plume of white feathers and a fine scarf about his neck. Thus equipped, he took with him, in a silk net, a little pretty dog he had bought by the way, and appeared with such an air of stateliness, that the princess's noblemen strove who should introduce him first.

By this time the Golden Beauty was informed of the ambassador's arrival; and being told his name was Avenant, it run in her mind, that it signified some good luck to her; and that he was comely enough to draw the affections of all the world after him.

Well, said she to her maids of honour, hasten to dress me in my richest robes, and let me be seated on my throne with great splendour, that all mankind may own, that I am the only Beauty with Golden Locks.

Her commands were no sooner obeyed, but Avenant was introduced into her presence. At first sight of her he was ravished, and for some time not able to express himself; but commanding a presence of mind equal to the greatness of

his soul, he made a most eloquent oration; in which he requested a better fortune from the princess, than to return without her to the king his master.

I approve of all you say, most accomplished Avenant, said the princess, and you shall have the preference of my favours: but by the way I must inform you, that some time since as my maids and I were walking by a river, in pulling off my glove, there fell from my finger a ring, which I valued above all the world; whereupon I made a vow never to listen to the offers of a prince, till it was restored me again by the ambassador who should bring such proposals.

Avenant was much perplexed at this answer, and standing some time silent, at last begged the princess would accept of his little dog Caper, with his fine scarf. But she refused his offer, and desired him to withdraw, he having known her mind already.

The ambassador retired to his apartment in the utmost consternation, to spend the night in fruitless sighs and thoughts; which little Caper perceiving, with concern, said, Pray, Sir, despair not; you are too handsome to be miserable; let us only by break of day walk by the river side.

The advice was taken, and early with folded arms and melancholy looks, Caper and he took their walk.

They had not gone far, but on a sudden he heard a soft voice calling out Avenant! Avenant! He looked about him for some time but could see nothing, at last his dog Caper peeping into the river, fortunarely saw the gilded carp, and told his master of it.

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The grateful fish no sooner saw Avenant, but appeared above water, and said, my dear Avenant, for saving my life in the meadow, I am here as good as my word; take the ring the princess has lost, and I wish you all happiness.

In an extacy of joy with a thousand thanks, he took it out of her mouth, at which instant she gave him a pleasant look, leaving Caper to skip about his master for joy that he had prevailed with him to walk thither.

To court they flew with all the wings joy could give; but alas! the princess only smiled when she was told of his return, thought it was only to have his final audience of leave. But when he came to her and presented the ring not damaged, and demanded her in his master's name, she was in the utmost consternation, and thought some fairy had helped him to it.

However, said she, to Avenant, since your respect for me is so great, before I consent, you must do me another piece of service; and which is, to fetch me the head of a neighbouring tyrant named Gallifron, who has ravaged my territories, and murdered my subjects, because I would not consent to have him for my husband, he being a prodigious giant that devours men with as much ease as a squirrel cracks nuts; carrying in his pockets field pieces and mortars, instead of pistols; and has a voice as loud as thunder; therefore it is that this request be performed, or else what you have done hitherto, is to no purpose.

So great a spirit as Avenant's had no need of much consideration; and therefore he promised the Beauty with Golden Locks to fight this monster of a man and so took his leave for that time.

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He soon furnished himself with what weapons were necessary, and the next day mounted his horse, with Caper in a net by his side, and rode till he came within the tyrant's dominions: and as he rode along his little dog encouraged him with many diverting promises of biting the giant by the legs all the time of the engagement; and that nothing should be wanting in him for his defence.

With this, and such like discourse they travelled till they came to the castle, amidst vast heaps of sculls, raw heads, and bloody bones; and saw the giant stalking through a dismal wood, singing, in a hoarse tone, these inhuman lines:

Oh! how I want another dish,  
Of new-kill'd men that's young and fresh;  
The marrow from the bones I'd squeeze,  
And suck the blood out by degrees:  
With my sharp teeth and survy jaws,  
If once they come within my paws,  
Should break my fast with half a score,  
And stay my dinner till I'd more.

The invincible Avenant hearing the cannibal's words boldly made this reply:

Here's one that will suffice you more,  
Than all that you hitherto killed before;  
Thy appetite shall soon be fed,  
And I will bear away thy head.  
Thy teeth and jaws shall not me scare,  
Therefore approach, bold Avenant is here.

At this Avenant drew his sword, when the giant with

with scorn, lifted up his massy club, and with one blow would have dashed out his brains, had not a crow, which settled on his thick scull, pick'd out the monster's eyes, and then flew to a tree hard by.

The giant feeling the blood trickle down his face, fell into such a rage, that striking and laying about him at random, it gave Avenant an opportunity of sheathing his sword in his heart, and made him lie as it were in a pond of blood.

The next thing was to whip off his head; at which time the crow put him in mind, that she had retaliated the kindness she received from his hands, by killing the ravenous eagle.

Avenant having given the crow many a hearty thank, rode away with the giant's head to court. At his approach, the palace rung with huzzas, and long live courageous Avenant! and so, with triumph he laid the frightful head at the feet of the princess, which made her blood thrill, though she was glad of the prospect.

Take there, madam, said Avenant, the head you wanted, and now let my royal master have his desire.

At which the princess bowing, fetched a sigh, and said unfortunate me, that cannot yet consent to what you ask. There is, added she, a deep boggy hole, full of poisonous creatures, not many miles from hence; at the bottom of which runs a water, called, the Preserver of Health and Beauty, from the secret virtue it has in giving and preserving everlasting both those jewels o persons never so young, deformed, or old. The assage to it is guarded by two fiery dragons, whose looks bring death to all about them.

However,

However, some of this water I must have, or else I will never depart my kingdom.

This must needs be very surprizing to one who had merited so much already: but Avenant in obedience to her commands, told her he would do his endeavours, though it were to the ruin of himself, for the sake of his master.

And accordingly with his little dog Caper, he began this difficult enterprize; wondering that so many impossibilities should be lodged in so chaste a breast.

Well, he was no sooner in the wood, but he saw the frightful dragons spitting out their fire, which ascended to the skies, in fearful black clouds of smoke.

Pulling out the vial in despair, take this, said he, to Caper, and when I am dead, carry my blood in it to the princess, and let her see the effects of her desire; and then go and acquaint the king my master, of my undeserved end.

Hold, Avenant, hold (said the owl he had with him) I have also done one kindness for another; and as an instance of my gratitude to you, I'll fill the vial with the Water of Beauty: for all the secret holes he cometh to myself. So he gave her the bottle, and in less than a quarter of an hour she returned with it full to his satisfaction; and sent him back to the princess with a cheerful heart.

The Beauty with Locks of Gold received him now with joy, and put him out of suspense; gave him immediately orders for her departure, and accordingly with great splendor, set out along with him; but by the way, took an opportunity to discove

discover more affection for him, than for the prince she was going to: Avenant knowing her mind intimated that he could love none more than so beautiful a prince.

When they arrived at the king's palace, he and his nobles went in a sumptuous manner to meet her: and the marriage being performed with great splendor and rejoicing, she told his majesty pleasantly, that if it had not been for faithful Avenant, she had not been his bride; for he had effected it by obtaining her a bottle of water, which would always make her young and beautiful.

And truly the respect she discovered to Avenant drew upon him the calumnies of some jealous noblemen, that envied his happiness; so that in a little time they persuaded the too credulous king to imprison him in a loathsome dungeon, where he was fed for all his faithful services, with bread and water.

The queen having often besought his discharge had with tears, was so far from gaining it, that it increased the king's jealousy, who calling to mind the Water of Beauty that was in the bed-chamber, it came into his jealous pate to try if he could make himself beautiful and young with it. But fortunately it proved to Avenant's advantage and lasting felicity.

For a servant brushing down the ceiling, accidentally broke the bottle with her broom; and not knowing what to do in so great a perplexity, went to the king's closet and took from thence a bottle with liquor in it, like that she broke, and about which, unknown to her, had poison in it, with which the king made use of to poison his nobility.

with at pleasure; and putting it in the same place, left all things as she found them.

The king next morning went and applied it to his temples and face so long, that he fell down on the floor, and in a few minutes expired.

Caper, who had often been sent to his master with comfortable news from the queen, was the first that heard of this lucky accident, and away he galloped with it to the prison. Now, thought Avenant, the time of deliverance draws nigh: he immediately dispatched his light-footed courier to the queen, to implore her majesty's compassion of his afflictions at this juncture.

He needed not to have asked it, for she was driving to him incognito with all speed. When she arrived there, with her own hands she unbound those limbs which lay fettered, put a crown of gold upon his head, &c. and carried him to court; and there in the presence of all the nobility, married him, and made him their king, to the great joy and satisfaction of the people; but more to the Beauty with Locks of Gold, who had now the love of one, in whom she was satisfied she should be happy for ever.

T A L E



## TALE V.

Of the King of the Peacocks, and the Princess Rosetta.

WHEN the empire of the fairies was governed by the serene empress Truffio, there reigned a king and queen, who had two sons and one daughter, children all of the promising aspects that could be expected: the daughter was every way lovely, and had, as she grew up, stole away the heart and soul of her mother, insomuch that a concern for her future welfare, put her upon enquiring of some eminent fairies, what fortune would attend the remainder of her life.

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They

They all agreed in one judgment and told her, that she should run through great many difficulties, and then arrive to lasting happiness; but that her two brothers should be condemned to death upon her account.

This curiosity in the queen drew a deep melancholy upon her, which put the king upon a serious enquiry of the cause of her grief. She had often put him off with prevaricating stories, till one day he urged her so close, she was obliged to confess what the fairies had predicted of their children.

The king no sooner heard her, but was for destroying the daughter in her cradle, to preserve the male issue. The queen, with tears in her eyes, exhorted him to save them all, particularly the young princess. At length it was concluded to consult an old hermit not far from court, and to stand to his advice in the matter.

Accordingly the queen went to his cell, and having told the grave gentleman the opinion of the fairies, he sent her back, and bid her tell the king, that the only expedient to save his sons, would be to confine his daughter in perpetual imprisonment.

Well, the advice was put into execution, and into a strong castle she was put for life; and that she might not shorten her days by so close a retirement, she had now and then the conversation of her father and mother, and the young prince her brothers. And thus she spent her time till the king and queen fell sick and died.

When every one was in the deepest sorrow for their death, the nobles and grandees of the kingdom

dom took the eldest prince and seated him on the throne of his father.

And then the new king and his brother, who loved their sister entirely, went and fetched her from her confinement, with a design to give her in marriage.

As they walked along diverting themselves with a thousand promises, the princess's little dog, Fretillion, which had but one ear, and which was so green, that nothing could be greener, jumped into a neighbouring thicket. The princess soon stepped after him, when, to her surprise, she saw him barking at a stately peacock, which had put his whole body in a majestic posture.

The princess admiring its charming beauty, asked the king, what creature that was? Oh, sister said he, it is a bird which we often kill and eat. Say you so, cried she, I'll take it to court with me; so delicate a bird deserves more pity: and, for my part, I'll die a virgin, provided I cannot have the King of the Peacocks for my husband. And where shall we find his Peacock Majesty, replied he. Nay, nay, see you to that, said she, I'll keep my word.

When they came to court, her two brothers having resolved if possible, to find out the King of the Peacocks, left the administration of affairs in the hands of their sister, and taking with them her picture, betook themselves to travel.

In vain they took many a weary step, and in vain were the enquiries after the King of the Peacocks, till they came to a certain place inhabited by none but locusts. Here they were told that the king they were in search of, lived a thousand leagues southward from that country.

With this information they took their leave, and after some few days arrived in that kingdom; where they found peacocks in infinite numbers, perching on every tree they met: the king said to his brother, certainly if the king of this country should prove a peacock himself, how ridiculous would it be to suffer ourselves to be allied to him.

But when they came to the metropolis of the kingdom, instead of peacocks nothing was seen but men and women decked with peacock's feathers. They found the king of the place riding in a golden chariot in a magnificent dress, with a peacock's tail set with diamonds in his crown.

As soon as he saw the two strange princes, he sent and demanded their business. They informed his majesty, that they had brought to him a picture of the greatest beauty in the world, a princess by birth, and their sister, who had made a solemn vow never to marry none but himself, and with whom they would give an hundred ton of gold.

The king, smitten with the picture, began to question the original, and said, If she appeared agreeable to the picture, which he would keep by him till they had sent for her, he would gladly marry her; but if upon her arrival she proved otherwise, that then they should be both executed as cheats; and accordingly put them both in custody, to wait the coming of their sister.

Upon this dispatches were sent forthwith, to put the princess on her departure. She no sooner was told of it but she leaped for joy, and sent for all her nobles, her maids of honour, and chiefest favour-

favourites, and left the management of affairs to their care, bestowing on every one considerable presents.

Having packed up her portion, with thrice as many imperial robes and diamonds, she commended her peacock to their protection; and accompanied only by her old nurse, the nurse's daughter, and her one-eared dog, embarked, and put to sea with all the cheerfulness of a new married bride.

Whilst they were at sea, many a time had her designing nurse enquired of the captain when they should see land. At last the wished for hour caine, when the ungrateful wretch took the captain aside, and told him, that if he would fling the princess over-board, he should have as much wealth as he desired. And that you may do it with safety, said she, I will dress my daughter in her cloaths, and give her in marriage to the King of the Peacocks, who not having seen the princess, will not know one from the other.

It is not very difficult to tempt a covetous soul. The persuasions of the nurse, backed by a bowl of punch or two, soon worked him fit for her turn; so that in the midnight watch, they threw the innocent princess, bed and all, as she lay asleep, with her little dog by her into an unmerciful sea.

Happy was it for the princess Rosetta, that her bed was made of Phoenix feathers, which have such a peculiar virtue in them, that they never sink. The princess had not been long over-board, but the sea began to penetrate the ticking of her bed, and came to her delicate body: at last, the

violence of the waves waked he little dog; when seeing the fish swim about him, he barked so loud, that his mistress waked also, but with no other thoughts, than that the ship was violently tossed by the waves.

By this time the vessel was close to the shore, where a hundred coaches waited the landing of the princess; among the rest was a body coach of an inestimable value, drawn by six fine peacocks, with a noble train of beautiful virgins, to conduct her to the palace.

This preparation was made for the reception of Rosetta on the king's side, whilst the busy nurse had dressed her ugly daughter in the habit of the princess, and carried her ashore. But when the king's servants saw her they smote their breasts, and stood amazed at her deformity. What, said she, is the reason of these fellows stupidity? see how the blockheads stand; fetch me some dainty refreshments, sirrah, or I'll have you all dead alive.

This language of the filthy beast struck them all with horror, so that without much ceremony, they carried the beast, with the nurse her mother, and the unmannerly sailor, to the king's palace; but never were people hissed at like these. Nay, the very peacocks themselves, as they went along, screamed out horrid invectives against the counterfeit princess, who was so angry, that she could have killed them herself, had they not flown away.

By this time the king was told that they were entering his palace. Well, said he, have her two brothers spoke truth, or not? is she such a beautiful person as they have represented? and having said

said this, he saw the sham princess among the crowd, who made ugly grimaces and gestures at the sight of her.

The king at first thought this behaviour of theirs was occasioned by some outlandish beast; but when he found her to be the very reverse of the picture that was carried before him in triumph, he soon perceived his error.

'Tis not easy to imagine the consternation his majesty was in at the sight of her. Have they, said he, thus imposed upon me? well, they shall die for it, and let these suffer also. With that, he ordered the mother, daughter, and flinty captain to be immediately imprisoned; and that the two princes already in custody, should be thrown into a deep dungeon, till they were brought to execution.

The king and the prince his brother, seeing themselves in danger, remonstrated to the king, that what they had affirmed was true; that his threatening to put them to death was a piece of indiscretion; and that the eldest of them was a king, rich and powerful as himself, and whose subjects, no doubt, who always loved him, would soon make him repent his rashness.

The king, hearing this, began to be afraid, and was once in the mind to set them at liberty; but a rogue of a court flatterer, a minister of state, persuaded his majesty, that he would become the banter of all despotic princes, if he did not, right or wrong, execute them according to his word.

Immediately gibbets were erected, and there was but an ace between their living and dying, when the eldest prince, by the assistance of a moderate

derate Mufti, then present, prevailed with the king to respite the judgment for seven days, assuring his majesty, by that time he should be able to convince him of some mistake in the matter.

Things thus carried on at court, the distressed Princess Rosetta, who had lain eight and forty hours, floating between hope and despair, was almost starved with hunger and cold; and certainly she had suffered famine, had not her faithful dog dived and brought her muscles, cockles, shrimps, and oysters, on which necessity made her feed heartily. Ah! said she, would I were under my former confinement! better I had never seen a peacock.

Thus she exclaimed against the severity of her fate, till time and tide were so merciful as to throw her ashore not far distant from an old fisherman's cottage, where he lived a solitary life. The dog soon jumped on the dry land, and barked loud enough to reach the old man's ears, who presently ran out to see what was the matter, when to his great surprise he found the princess passionately crying out for help; he saw by the rich bed that she was of illustrious birth, and therefore immediately jumped in, and drew her out.

He soon carried her home, accompanied by her little dog, and with some wholesome cloath's of his daughter's, put her in the dress of a shepherdess. After he had warmed her by the fire, and made her eat what his cottage afforded, he asked the cause of her misfortunes, which, upon his promising secrecy, she told him from the beginning to the end. The old man having heard all with a great deal of attention, was for informing the King of the Peacocks, and fetching some dainties

dainties from his table; but she forbid it, and said, my little dog, Fretillion, will be more serviceable to us, if you will but hang a little basket about his neck.

The fisherman did as she said, and the princess cried, get thee gone, and fetch me something out of the best pot in the king's kitchen. Away run Fretillion, and watching an opportunity, took away a dozen of quails, and brought them to his mistress: she sent him again, and then he returned laden with citron water, Naples biscuits, and preserved fruits.

When his Peacock Majesty was to dine, the servants were at a loss for the provision, so that in a fright they told the king, his dinner was taken from them they knew not how.

Well, said he, frowning, see that I have my supper, or else death shall be your portion.

Accordingly they made provision for it, but the one eared dog had carried it all to his mistress: so that the king having fasted ever since morning, grew raving mad at this disappointment, and was forced to go to bed supperless.

Well, he was served so three days together, till his Mufti had watched, and discovered how the victuals were carried off, and who having followed the dog, unobserved, to the fisherman's cottage, was returned to tell his majesty of it.

Immediately messengers were sent thither, where they found the old man and the princess feeding on his majesty's provision, as heartily as if it was their own.

They presently carried them with the dog to court, and the next day, being the last that the princess Rosetta's brothers were to live, the king ordered

ordered all the prisoners to be brought [into the hall of justice, so that they might die together. But when the king saw the admirable beauty of disconsolate Rosetta, his heart sunk within him, and knowing the picture he had was like her, stood silent some time, till the old man, with bended knees, declared her to be the true princess Rosetta, whom the cruel nurse had committed to the waves.

Bless me! at this news the hungry king became as hearty as if he had eaten a ton of jelly-broth; so that flying instantly from his throne, he caught her in his arms, and declared her his queen, and that he loved her more than his life.

In the mean time her brothers, the nurse, the daughter, and sea captain were come in, at which time they all knowing one another, the princess fell upon her brothers necks and embraced them, whilst they wept for joy. The wicked nurse and her accomplice perceiving themselves discovered, surrendered up all her portion, and fell on their knees to implore mercy.

The Peacock King, deaf to their intreaties, would have sacrificed them to his wrath, had not the good-natured princess forgave them, and persuaded the king to do the same. She also settled an estate upon the old fisherman, created him Knight of the most noble order of the Dolphins, and Vice Admiral of the Seas.

The marriage was performed the next day in the presence of her brothers, who returned home extremely satisfied, and nothing was heard but public demonstrations of joy, for the King of the Peacocks and the Princess Rosetta, who lived happily for many years.

T A L E



## TALE VI.

*The Shipwreck; or the Orange Tree and its beloved Bee.*

ONCE upon a time, there lived a king and a queen, who had but one daughter, a beauty excelling all the rest of her sex; and so much esteemed, that she was named the Beloved. There was nothing wanting in her infancy worthy of her birth, and she had a retinue sufficient for a princess grown to maturity, who waited upon her wherever her nurse was pleased to command.

One day the nurse took this sweet princess with

with her in a pleasure boat for the benefit of the air, the weather and heavens being then calm and serene; but they had not been far from shore, when there arose a violent storm, which notwithstanding all the endeavours the navigators could use, caused the boat to split in pieces, so that every one was drowned but the princess, who, being in her cradle, kept floating, till it was driven out to sea, and was cast upon an unknown shore.

It was a country which none inhabited, but a certain race of monsters, called Ogricons, a people that preyed upon mankind. The chief of these cannibals still surviving, was the ogre Ravagio, and his wife Tormentina, two cunning monsters who could smell a man or woman some leagues distant.

It happened one day that Tormentina walking by the sea-side, discovered the princess in her cradle, and pity, to which she had always been a stranger before, moved her now to spare so innocent a beauty. She therefore took her up, cradle and all, carried it to her den, and there prevented her husband, Ravagio, devouring it, by persuading him to bring her up, till she was of age to be married to their son Ogrilet; but fearing that the cries of so tender an infant might at one time or other provoke her husband's appetite, she, by virtue of her magic art, (for she was a demy fairy) conveyed her to a den, and commanded a lovely doe to wait upon and suckle her, as often as was necessary: and thus by the care of Tormentina the princess lived till she was fifteen years of age.

The king and queen her parents, having almost forgot the memory of her, began to think

of

of settling the succession, despairing of any more issue, accordingly they pitched upon the second son of a neighbouring prince, who was admired by all that heard of him, to succeed them after their decease.

Ambassadors were immediately sent with a great navy of ships to convey him from his father's dominions. Upon their arrival, the king immediately consented to the proposal, and he was called the Beloved of his Father. He was sent with a vast retinue of nobility, and a prodigious quantity of riches.

They had not been long out of sight of land, but a dreadful tempest arose, in which the whole navy immediately foundered, and every soul was lost but himself, who floating on a plank, was driven ashore upon the very same coast where the Ogricons lived.

The princess by this time being grown up, with a thousand delicate features and charms, though not capable of speaking any thing but the Ogriconian tongue, had assigned to herself a certain cavity between two rocks, by which she would take delight to fish, and where she would contemplate with herself. She discovered indeed about her a glorious turquois stone, with some odd characters on it, but of its meaning she could not inform herself.

And thus she spent her absent hours from Ravagio and Tormentina, when one day she saw a youth floating ashore for dead; she went and received him with admiration; and presently took certain green herbs, and rubbing her hands, applied the juice to his nostrils, till he came to himself, and stood upright, amazed to see so beauti-

ful

ful a creature present herself before him: they both stood surprised at each other a-while, until the prince offering her his hand, she flew back, and made signs for him to be gone, and that his life was in danger. He spoke to her, but she understood him not, so that a meer jargon of language past between them.

The princess shed tears to think that he would presently be torn to pieces, and the more because she could not make him sensible of it; at last, she took his hand, and led him to her cell in the rocks, and made him repose himself in a bed of soft rushes.

At night she left him to return to Ravagio's den, the more to prevent suspicion; but when she saw the young monster Ogriletto to whom she was to be married, her heart was ready to break. She could not sleep all the night; a thousand thoughts disturbed her rest; so early, the next morning she went to the prince's residence, and there with tears in her eyes, by all the signs she could make, would have him fly the place for safety. He flung himself at her feet, and wiped them with his hair, while she presented him with her turquois heart, as a token of her esteem. The prince kissed the hand that gave it, and looking upon it earnestly, read these words:

The only Beloved Daughter to the King  
of the Fortunate Island.

The surprize the prince was in, when he read it, was inexpressible. He knew such a princess was his cousin, and that she had been drowned many years before. He lifted up his eyes to heaven,

heaven, concluding that the sea had thrown up so rich a jewel. Then, with tears in his eyes, he kissed her, and tied the heart about her wrist again, requesting by a certain sign, only a little lock of her hair, in the room of it, which she, with some difficulty, granted.

Thus four days run away; when the princess coming to Ravagio's cave one evening, she found a supper provided for her, with all the rarities that could be got. She wondered at the meaning, but Ravagio told her, she must be married that night, to his son Ogriletto, and for that reason he had ordered so splendid an entertainment. The princess immediately trembled, and desired it might be deferred a little longer. How! said the monster, I have a good mind to devour thee presently; at which she fainted away between Tormentina and her son's paws: Ogriletto, 'tis true, loved her entirely; so with much ado, Ravagio was persuaded to save her that night.

The prince, by this time was wholly devoted to her commands, and love had made him a perfect slave in so little a space, that he was ready to die, because he could not thoroughly inform her of his passion.

When she returned next morning she made him to understand the danger she was in of being married to another.

At which she discovered a visible alteration in his countenance; he was ready to die at her feet, being altogether a stranger to the country where he was, and how to escape he knew not; which if he did, would be even death to him. The princess was as much concerned on t'other side, and with an equal grief, they spent the time in

sighs and tears till night obliged her to retire from him.

In her way to the cave, it being dark, she had the mortification to tread upon a sharp thorn, which ran through the sole of her foot, insomuch that when she came home, her pains were so afflicting, in conjunction with her concern for the prince, that she swooned away several times.

Ravagio, Tormentina, and Ogriletto, were all troubled at the misfortune; they pulled out the thorn, (but knew not of another in her heart) and laid some herbs to the wound, and put her to bed. But sleep she could not, nor could she go as usual in the morning to the prince; so that the apprehensions of his breaking his heart for her absence, occasioned a double grief.

The prince indeed was so much concerned at her not returning, that in despair he was resolved to go in quest of her, though he lost his life. By the help of a rude track he travelled till he came to the Ogricons den, which he no sooner entered; but the monster Ravagio snapped at him, and would have devoured him, had not the princess fell down on her knees, and intreated him to keep that fresh provision till her wedding-day. Ravagio consented to it, ordering her to feed and fatten him against the day appointed; but she did it with another intention, and it was with a design to preserve him from destruction; which in a little time she thus effected:

The princess knew that Tormentina had an ivory wand, with which she had seen her perform many strange things; thought she, if such an ignorant brute can work wonders with it, well may I; and so she went where it was, and taking

ing hold of it, wished in the name of the fairy Truffio, to talk the language of her distressed lover.

This had its desired success, so that she immediately went to the prince, and whispered in his ear, that she was more afflicted at his misfortunes than her own; and withal told him how she came to understand his language, by virtue of an ivory wand. The overjoyed prince, with many thanks, said, that she was as dear to him as his soul; and that nothing but death should seperate his affections from her.

In short, they had the satisfaction of a conversation one with another, which none but true lovers can enjoy; and amongst all their projects, that of their escape was the most considerable. The princess told him, as soon as night came, she would get Ravagio's best camel, upon which they would both mount, and steer their course where providence should direct.—The prince approved of it, and the wished for hour came, when the princess put a bean in a cake, and taking the little wand in her hand, cried pretty bean, pretty bean, O little pretty bean, in Truffio's name, I command thee whilst thou art roasting to talk as I used to do, when Tormentina calls; and with that she thrust the cake into the embers.

Now, said she to the prince (taking the wand in her hand) let us mount; which they did accordingly and rode away full speed.

Early the next morning, the Ogress went to seek for the princess, and found she and the prince had fled; with that she set up such a howl, that Ravagio leaped in a minute from his cave, to know what was the matter. With dismal cries,

she told him all his fresh meat was stole away; which when Ravagio heard, he tore his beard, and swore he would revenge himself. Give me my seven-league boots, and I'll be up with them presently. The boots being brought, away he went, and quickly came in sight of the prince and princess.

The princess perceiving him first, cried out, we are ruined, dear prince, for the monster is just at our heels. The prince was more concerned for her than himself; so that the thoughts of her danger pierced his soul.

A woman's wit being ready at invention, the princess cried out, help, O wand, help; and in kind Truffio's name, turn our beast into a river, let my prince be a boat, and myself an old woman to row it along. The wand was no sooner waved, but she had her wish, when up came the monster, to the river-side, and cried, ho, you gammer, did you see a man and a maid go by this bank-side? The old dame whipping on her spectacles, stared at him, as if she knew nothing of the matter; at last she pointed, and made him believe they were gone by the left hand: away stalked Ravagio out of sight, with hopes to overtake them; in the mean time, the princess touched herself with her wand, and resumed her shape.

Ravagio having travelled far to no purpose, returned to Tormentina, who impatiently expected his coming; but when she saw him return without them, she called him fool, and laughed at his story about the old woman and her spectacles. Go back, simpleton, cried she, and devour them in an instant.

The old fool of a monster immediately stepped away,

away, till he came within sight of them once more, and in another step would have been up with them, had not the princess, by virtue of her wand, turned her camel into a box, herself into a dwarf, and the prince into a beautiful picture. The dwarf seeing Ravagio, immediately blew his horn, at which the monster came to him, and asked, if lie had not seen a young couple go by that way? The dwarf told him, that a beauteous lady came by yesterday, with a valiant knight, who had fought in honour of her, whose picture hung before him; and that the lady, before she went, charged him, that if an ill-looked giant, with but one eye in his forehead, should come and enquire about her, that he should tell him to give over his search, for that she was for ever out of his reach.

Say you so, said Ravagio; which way did they go? over yon plain, said the dwarf. Away stalked the monster, and was out of sight in an instant. The princess presently took her wand, and with two or three touches, they were all in their proper shapes again.

Ravagio having gone over all the woods, forests, mountains, and vallies, with incredible swiftness, was forced to return like a fool as he set out. He had indeed bundled up a few half-hearted lovers that he met by the way, and carried them with him, and it was well he did so, for Tormentina's fury was grown so great, that if she had not something to stop her mouth, perhaps she might have devoured him; for the grey mare was now become the better horse. And such a she-fury, knowing her husband's weakness

nes, would easily have made the place too hot to hold him.

Well, having devoured all he brought, without so much as, I thank ye, gaffer; give me, coxcomb, said she, your boots, and let me see what I can do; I'll warrant thee, I'll soon find them out, and make an example of them.

With that, Ravagio, for peace sake, let her put on his boots, as she had often done his breeches, and away the hagged Grefs went, and stretched the boots a league farther than usual. She took with her a monstrous club.

Alas! her motion was so swift, that in a few hours the princess saw her. Now was the grand trial of the lovers. They invoked the powers above to protect a couple who could have died for the sake of each other. In the midst of this extremity, some good fairy put into the mind of the princess, to make use of her wand once more. Come, my dearest, said she to the prince, take courage, all shall be well; with that she waved her wand thrice, and cried, be a box, O camel, and thou lovely prince, an orange tree, and myself a bee, to fly and hum about thee.

The words were no sooner uttered, but what she said came to pass; when Tormentina came up, and being tired with travelling, sat herself down to rest under the orange tree; the busy bee perceiving it, was resolved to tease her, notwithstanding the thickness of her hide, and stung her so terribly, that the beast was heard to roar many leagues off. Now and then she would throw her paws at the bee, with a design to kill it, but it was too nimble for her and flew away.

However

However the orange tree was in great pain for his beloved bee all the time.

At last the hag being so nettled with the smart, rose up, and in despair, foaming at the mouth, stalked home again; when the princefs would have restored herself to her shape, but some persons by accident had been that way, and carried away with them, ignorantly, her white wand.

This was a lamentable surprize to them both; they alike lamented their misfortunes. The prihce cried, woe is me, that I should be thus confined in a tree! My pretty bee, what shall I do if you fly me? Cannot you stay to live upon the blossoms I produce? my leaves shall be your bed, and free you from the venomous spiders. Ah! cried she, why suspectest thou thy bee? no dove shall be more true to her mate. I will watch thee and preserve thee from the rude touches of an unkind hand. With that she settled upon one of the largest flowers, and blessed herself with so sweet a living, whilst the tree flourished, and looked gay and lively.

It seems this orange tree stood in a wood belonging to a certain lady named Linda, who coming with her maids that way, was so smitten with its delicacy, that she stood a considerable time admiring it: she could not imagine how it came there; and willing to gather a flower, she no sooner touched it, but the bee flew upon her hand, and stung her, so that she was ready to faint away with the smart. She then caused it to be removed, and planted it in a pleasant garden next her chamber window, whither the bee accompanied it.

The next morning nothing would satisfy Linda, but a nosegay of flowers from the orange tree; she

she often attempted to gather them, but the bee as often stung her; at last, by the advice of her maids, she drest herself in armour, and with trumpets sounding, went with her sword drawn to the tree, and with one stroke cut off a branch, at which a great groan was heard, and a vast quantity of blood seen to fall on the ground. The surprize must needs be very great to Linda, who attempted afterwards to join it again, but all in vain.

The poor bee was so frightened at this sight, that she was ready to expose her own life for his; and fearing he might bleed to death, by instinct of nature, having his leave, flew instantly to Arabia, and brought back on her nimble wings and feet, a precious balsam, with which she daily drest his wound.

The compassionate Linda was so terrified at this transaction, that her rest went from her; she could not be satisfied till the mystery was unfolded, and therefore she sent far and near for the most eminent fairies in those parts, promising them that if they would vouchsafe her a visit, to bestow on them whatever they desired. The generous fairies never want intreaties to do good; so that away posted great numbers of them to Linda's castle, where amongst the rest, appeared the good queen Truffio, being the chiefeſt in the first order of fairies; she was no sooner consulted, but she went to the tree, and by virtue of her ſkill, turned it into one of the moſt accomplished princiſes in the world. At this ſight, the aſtoniſhed Linda forgot her former aversion for the ſex, and entertained a paſſion for him.

But the prince falling at Truffio's feet, return-  
ed

ed her a thousand thanks, and begged that his happiness might be compleat, by having his lovely bee, which was his life and soul, restored to him in her proper shape. It shall be done, said the generous fairy, and giving her word, the princess appeared with all her usual charms and lustre, insomuch, that every lady then present, envied her happiness.

When Linda saw this, her person put a stop to a passion she so newly entertained; she forgot it, and fell to embracing the prince and princess, who, at the request of Truffio, had informed her of all that had happened to them, and particularly of the wonders they had performed, by virtue of Truffio and her wand.

The pleasure the fairy took to hear herself so respectfully spoke of, obliged her to do something extraordinary for them, and which should forever set them above the frowns of fate.

She took her leave of Linda, and gave her the gift of fairyism, and with a thousand embraces, seated the prince and princess with her in a flying chariot, and flew directly to the Fortunate Island, where the king and queen, the princess's father and mother, were still living, who received them both as children risen from the grave; never was there such rejoicings before.

They were married in great pomp, and at the death of the king succeeded to the government of the island, and lived happy many years beloved by their subjects.

F I N I S.

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